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## Letters From a Superannuated Poultryman

To a "Gentleman Poultry Keeper" in Want of a Poultryman:—

**M**Y DEAR SIR:—Naturally I feel flattered by the complimentary references to my views on the question of educating poultrymen with which your letter begins, yet I think you make a mistake in supposing that that letter indicates special qualifications for advising you how to deal with your help problem.

That was more in the line of prophecy than of practical advice. I could conjure up a vision of the help question on poultry plants solved as the result of fulfillment of my predictions about the training of poultrymen, but that is all so far off that I never expect to see it, and there is nothing in it to help you in your present dilemma.

However, it would have been impossible for any man to have seen as much of the troubles of poultry keepers with their help, and of the help with their "bosses" as I have, without coming to some conclusions about it, and if my ideas on the subject have any interest for you you are welcome to them, and I hope they may be of some use to you, though, candidly, I don't think they will, for the most conspicuous thing about the "gentleman poultry keeper," as I call a man who is in it as you are, is that his confidence in his own wisdom exceeds several times over that of the average amateur—and that is saying a great deal.

To begin with, *harmonizing* the gentleman proprietor of a poultry plant and the man who does the work on that plant is much like mixing oil and water. You know that can be done—after a fashion—by the use of soap or some substance having similar properties. And so it is with the employer and the employee in such cases as yours. If each will cater to the foibles of the other when he can without too much inconvenience, always making it a point not to show any disrespect for his opinions, and, as it were, smooth the ways of their intercourse by the judicious use of soap, they may get along together very well; but if—as I have often seen—the employer scarcely conceals his contempt for his poultryman because he has never made much of a financial success of anything, and the poultryman, either because nettled by such treatment or because he thinks it smart, impudently sneers as much as he dares at the frequent ignorance of poultry matters displayed by his employer, both are likely to find a year's contract all too long.

The poultrymen have their faults—as you have discovered. Your letter gives quite a complete list of them, but you don't

even hint anything that would indicate that you realized that you had any faults at all yourself. Of course I don't know what your peculiar faults are, but I know those of your class pretty well, and as a general rule each and every gentleman poultry keeper has about nine-tenths of all the faults of his class, so I can't go very far wrong in guessing at yours.

Let me say before I go any further that my own experience with employers and employees has been of the same kind with

day laborer or a mechanic for special work as I needed one. My business was established before the days of big things in poultry keeping, on lines which gave me a very comfortable living, and what I saw of the experiences of other poultrymen with their help made me feel that my living was snorer if I kept things about as they were. I won't deny that there have been times when I figured out how much more than the expense of a man I could make by enlarging to a scale that would keep two men busy, and once I went so far as to try to find a suitable man, but—provisionally—I could not find one then, and meantime I changed my mind.

I don't know either side of the case as one who has been a part of it, but sometimes I think the knowledge a looker-on gets of such matters is worth more than that of any of those taking part in them. Anyway, it should be added to personal knowledge to give the case in full. Of particular cases where men disagreed without agreeing to do so, I have often heard both sides, and thus perhaps could judge the merits of the case better than either of the parties interested.

The root of the whole trouble is in the absurd desire of so many men of some means to have a poultry plant. I never could understand why anyone who did not want to work with poultry wanted a poultry plant. That may be because my understanding is limited. At any rate I put it down long ago that I was incapable of appreciating the attitude of the gentleman poultry keeper toward his poultry plant. I don't want to be misunderstood as calling all poultry keepers who hire their work done "gentlemen poultry keepers." Not at all. There are exceptions. Not many, yet, still, a few. I know business and professional men who have been interested in poultry all their lives, many of them were amateur poultry keepers when boys, and very good ones too—both good poultry keepers and good boys. I never knew a boy who was interested in poultry to be a very bad boy. Such men as these can hire a poultryman and get along with him as well as with any other men they employ or do business with, because they can see something of the poultryman's side of questions that come up, and they know enough about poultry to discuss affairs of the business intelligently

with their poultryman and be companionable with him when about the plant, and also to appreciate his work when he has done well, or managed to save a difficult situation.

But you gentlemen poultry keepers are not so. If it is the fancy you are in, you go down to the yards as the chicks are beginning to show their quality, and you can't (nine-tenths of you) tell a poor chick from a good one, or even distinguish



Ideal White Leghorns.

each class. I never worked for one of you gentlemen poultry keepers, though I have had many offers of positions, and did several times almost reach the point of signing a contract. I never employed help while running my poultry plant. Mine, as I think I stated in a letter to another party last year, was a one-man—or, if you prefer, a one-horse poultry plant. I did all the work that is properly poultry work myself, hiring a

FARM-POULTRY

the cracker-jack that has been pointed out to you, well enough to follow him as he mixes with the flock, to say nothing of recognizing him the next day.

If your poultryman, after much persuasion, induced you to let him have a few dollars to buy certain breeders he said he needed, and the results of his purchase show in the chicks so no poultryman could help seeing them, he gets never a word of commendation from you. But, that pen of winners that you bought at a show, on your own responsibility, at an extravagant price—if he hasn't a whole string of world beaters from that—you are not slow to intimate that he hasn't got what he ought to out of them. You don't believe him when he tells you the birds are no good, or of no use to you. You just put it down that he either can't appreciate them, or deliberately planned not to get anything out of them.

Why, you chump (excuse me, but I can't help it), don't you know that if you did accidentally get a hold of something really good and of real use to you, no one would be more pleased than he?

If you are in "practical" poultry culture, you expect the poultryman to show a profit for you quicker than he possibly could for himself. If things go wrong and by a great effort he straightens them out, saving you from heavy loss, though the profit has gone glimmering, you give him no sign that you appreciate what he has done. To be sure you have the best of reasons for not giving a sign of appreciation:—you don't appreciate the situation; you don't know enough to. And your poultryman knows that,—and it doesn't make the place seem any more agreeable to him.

If you were half as wise as you think you are about applying general business principles and methods to the poultry business, you would never go into it, for in going into it you



Black Cochon Bantam Pullet.

go directly contrary to one of the commonest business principles. Suppose you had taken it into your head that you wanted to go into something else than poultry keeping, say, building street car lines. Would you engage as manager a man who had lots of ideas about street cars but no reputation as a practical constructor of street railways? Would you not

try to get a man you knew—sure—thoroughly understood the business,—and wouldn't you consider it essential to have such a man before going to work? But in the poultry business if you can't get a capable man you take an incapable and go ahead, because yours is just the ordinary type of hen fever, and the only difference between you and the fellow that puts all he has, and himself and his credit into the poultry business is that you have more money to risk, and being tied to some other business or profession—anchored to it, as it were, you stand to lose only what can be spared. When you get to that limit you have to wind the thing up.

I could go on and tell a lot about the small faults of "gentleman poultry keepers." What's the use? The first big fault is the one that is of real importance. If some one could make you see that for you to go into the business the way you do that it was of no benefit to anybody but the manufacturers and dealers in poultry supplies (and I think in the long run it is no benefit to them either) that would be enough, there would be no need of going over the little points of difficulty between you and the men you hire.

You are disturbing elements in the business. You put men in charge of your large plants when the most that you know about them is that they don't know much about the business. You think they can learn it and make money for you at the same time. You feel sure they can if you give them a little oversight and the benefit of your advice occasionally.

I could write more, but I guess it is as well to wait and see whether what I have written has any effect. So in closing I will just say that as you are in the business I hope you will get a man who can manage you as well as it. Yours respectfully,

DANIEL DUCKWING.

## Annual Cornstalk Poultry House for Farmers

A CHEAP but sensible poultry house used by a woman who is quite successful in getting winter eggs is one that should appeal to all beginners in the chicken business. This woman has been raising chickens and selling eggs for years and says she would not have any other style of house for her flock. It is simply made and has but one board wall—the south side being made of heavy boards, and has three small windows set in. Four posts are first set in the ground after a load of gravel has been put down and to these posts old boards are nailed roughly on three sides. The posts to the south are eight feet high, and those to the north five. This gives the proper slope to the roof and makes it easier to bank the house.

During the warm fall days the south side is entirely open and the rough boards on roof and sides the only protection; but when the first cold days come preparations for the winter begin. The south side of the house, which is in sections and which is fifteen feet long and eight feet high, is brought from the barn where it has been stored all summer and put in place, and then the roof and three sides are securely banked with corn fodder or straw. Around the lower edge of the wall a ridge of dirt has first been securely packed, and then the straw heaped on till the whole thing looks like a shelter built in a straw or corn fodder stack. It is as cosy and warm as possible, and the fowls come out in the spring without frozen feet and combs.

Inside the house are roughly made roosts, nests, dust boxes and all the necessary furniture of a chicken house. It is easily cleaned every few weeks and the chickens are allowed freedom on mild days. A litter of straw and leaves helps to keep the floor clean, and when the chickens must be fed indoors it is easy to sweep a clean spot with an old broom.

In the spring the place is torn down and everything but the



First Prize Cock  
Madison Sq. 1905  
Property of  
R.J. Ruliffson  
Rochester N.Y.

Black Cochon Bantam Cock.

south wall and the posts destroyed in a complete bonfire. The south wall is thoroughly sulphur smoked and again stored in the barn till fall, while the chickens are forced to occupy their summer quarters, a well ventilated shed that has

been vacant all winter. The ground on which the house stood is dug up and planted so that there is no possibility of disease or lice. The dust boxes, roosts and nests all belong old boxes or barrels, the loss amounts to nothing and the destruction is complete. The labor of taking up posts is the hardest task, but not nearly as tiresome as fighting troublesome insects. In this way the ground is renewed and a comparatively new house provided every year. The rough boards should be treated with sulphur if to be used again and left out in the sun and air for some time before storing. If they are full of cracks and likely to harbor vermin it is best to burn them for wood in the kitchen stove and use fresh pieces the following fall.

Such a house costs very little and for this reason should commend itself to amateurs. Very little fodder will make the sides wind proof, and a few boards propped against the finished walls will keep the winter storms from tearing down your work. You can use the cheap house till you decide exactly what style of architecture you wish to follow in building your permanent house, for haste makes waste in building anything. Be sure that your packing comes around the corners well and that the south wall is banked with earth to keep out the cold at the ground. It is best to have a carpenter build the south side and fit everything well together to avoid cracks. I have seen the entire front banked with fodder in a severe winter all but the windows, but usually the three sides are sufficient. Have your posts good and strong, for wet straw weighs a great deal more than shingles, though if well built the chicken house will turn the water like a good straw stack. Have the door in the middle, and the posts on either side will help support the roof as well as those at the corners. This eight by fifteen foot house shelters forty healthy fowls that are a source of profit to their owner both summer and winter.

HILDA RICHMOND.

## Poultry Keeping as a Rest for the Weary

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—I am tired of working thirteen to fourteen hours per day for just sufficient to meet my expenses, and I am desirous of finding a way to earn a livelihood without being away from home all the time.

I have no knowledge of farming or of poultry, but am energetic and persistent. I have a practical wife who was brought up on a farm, and has a thorough knowledge of the work that falls to the housewife on the farm, and she also has had experience with domestic fowls such as every farmer has for his own use.

We are middle aged, with no children. Have about \$500 in cash. Do you think we could start in the poultry business and make at least as good a living as I make now, which is—enough to eat, a decent living, and good clothes to wear—by giving to the venture the same time I devote to my present calling?

I.

I would advise Mr. I. not to put his \$500 into poultry until he has some assurance of success in his venture. Situated as

he is, it is probably not possible for him to keep poultry and attend to it himself while following his present occupation. That being the case the only way I see for them to do is for the wife to make the beginning, he helping as he may have opportunity, and thus being able though at a disadvantage to gradually pick up a knowledge of the business. The start should be made in a very small way, that would not make heavy inroads on their small capital. Then, if the developments with poultry warranted it, in time the husband might drop his present employment and give all his time to poultry.

This is what might be done. At the same time I would not wish to be guilty of encouraging them to suppose that even if they were able in the course of a few years to make a living from poultry, it would be a better living than they have now, or would come any easier. I don't know just what kind of living they make. Enough to eat, and good clothes, mean different things to different people. I know poultrymen who might well live a little more economically, and who if they did so would easily make both ends meet, where now they have difficulty in doing that. I know others who profess to be satisfied with a living from poultry that I am sure is not as good as they used to make from something else. I know

many who are doing well and living well with poultry. What Mr. I. calls a decent living I don't know.

Most of the poultrymen of my acquaintance work more than thirteen or fourteen hours a day. This applies alike to those who have succeeded and those still struggling toward success. The business is no snap even for the most successful. To tell the truth, I believe they work harder and longer hours than the others. One of the most successful of our poultrymen has said that a man who will succeed as a poultryman would make more money by applying the same ability and energy in some other line, and there is much reason to believe that he is correct; yet there are men, many of them, in this as in other lines, who are in it because they like it, and though they want to make as much as possible in it would not change except for inducements too great to be disregarded.

The first essential to success in any business is experience. Only experience can rightly direct energy and persistence. I would like to be able to say to this correspondent:—The poultry business offers you relief from the disagreeable features of your present occupation, as good a living, with shorter hours and easier work. But to be frank and honest I have to say that he is probably better off if he lets it alone.

# First Lessons in Poultry Keeping

## LESSON XV.

### Poultry House Fixtures.

THE necessary fixtures of the poultry house are:

1. Roosts — with or without droppings boards.
2. Feed troughs, boxes or hoppers.
3. Drinking vessels.
4. Nests.
5. Receptacles for grit, shell, etc.
6. Dust boxes — in houses with board floors.

A poultry keeper may find places and use for all the articles enumerated, or he may get along with only a few of them. He may have his few fixtures simple and inexpensive—or may make the furnishing of his houses quite an item of expense when compared with the cost of the house and the value of fowls kept in it and of their product. He may make all fixtures himself, may convert old articles and utensils of various sorts to uses as furnishings for his poultry houses, or he may take his choice of ready made articles that run from plain to elaborate in construction, and from moderate to high in price. On a large plant there is a decided advantage as well as appropriateness in having the fixtures uniform throughout the plant. The poultry keeper works faster and easier when the same operation is to be performed in the same way all through. On a small plant it does not make so much difference, yet uniformity is always attractive. On the score of appearances, too, the fixtures should be in quality in keeping with their surroundings. Shabby or makeshift fixtures may not look at all out of place in a cheap, roughly built house, but they do look most decidedly out of place in a house with some pretensions to fine finish. On the other hand, fine fixtures do not go well with very plain houses.

The fixtures for a well finished house need not be elaborate. It is possible to have them simple and plain, yet well made and neatly finished, and quite as inexpensive too as rougher articles of the same pattern; and, all things considered, the poultryman is wisest who plans his house and provides his furnishings with an eye to simplicity, for complicated plans and elaborate fixings make it harder to keep a house clean, and make harboring places for the vermin of various kinds which infest poultry houses.

### Droppings Boards.

In the list of fixtures roosts are mentioned as with or without droppings boards. The need of the droppings board will depend on the methods of the poultry keeper. If he keeps his house close and finds it advisable to remove droppings daily, or every few days, he will find it more satisfactory to use droppings boards. If he keeps his house open, and can allow the droppings to accumulate under the roosts as long as they make no odor, he should leave out the droppings boards.

Some of the farmers of Rhode Island divide the floors of their poultry houses in the middle, (the roosts being at one end and the door at the other) by a board set on edge. A cart load of sand is put in the half next the door in the fall. At intervals through the winter a few shovelfuls of this are scattered over the droppings on the floor at the other side of the board. By spring all the sand has been moved, and is mixed with the accumulation of droppings for the entire winter, and the compost is carted off at the convenience of the farmer.

In these houses the roosts occupy about half the house. In the ordinary poultry house the roosts, according to number, extend two to three feet from one wall, usually the rear wall. Many poultrymen put a board on edge just in front of the roosts to keep the droppings from being scattered over the floor and the litter in front out of the droppings, and allow the droppings to remain for weeks without removing. If the droppings are of normal consistency and the earth of the floor or an applied absorbent takes care of the moisture in them, and if the house is thoroughly ventilated, there is no objection to this. But if droppings are soft and watery, or any fowls are sick, or if either for want of proper absorbents or lack of ventilation the smell of the droppings becomes objectionable they should be removed. To have stated times for cleaning up is well, but the poultryman should remember that his rules are made for the degree of cleanliness he wishes to preserve, and that the prime thing is to preserve that degree of cleanliness. He should clean as often as necessary. His rules merely represent what his general practice determines is necessary.

The board in front of the roosts may be left out and the hens allowed to scratch the litter back over the droppings. This is the practice that I prefer. The droppings will not be worked forward to any noticeable extent on a littered floor, for the hens scratch mostly away from the light, and pile the litter up at the back of the house. The coarser litter may be thrown forward with a fork, leaving finely broken stuff to mix with the droppings, and the mass may lie for weeks without any odor from it being discoverable. In very steady cold winters I have let the droppings lie four months. In warmer winters have found it necessary to remove often, but rarely oftener than once in four or five weeks.

If droppings boards are used they should have smooth upper surface, be wide enough to receive all droppings from the fowls as they sit on the roosts, and unless they have an unusually wide margin would have a strip on the front edge to keep droppings from being scattered. The droppings board under a single roost should be 20 to 24 in. wide; under a double roost 30 to 36 in.

The board should be 8 to 10 in. lower than the roosts. It is generally placed level. Occasionally it is made on an incline to allow the droppings to roll off, but most poultrymen prefer to clean the droppings from the level board. If droppings are soft it is necessary that boards should be kept well sprinkled with some absorbent such as dry earth or sand or land plaster; coal ashes and airslaked lime will answer, but the articles first mentioned are better.

If the manure is to be sold for tanning purposes no absorbent can be used on the boards, and as they quickly become saturated with the water from the droppings, the droppings boards in houses from which manure is saved for tanning are often repulsive in appearance even when supposed to be clean.

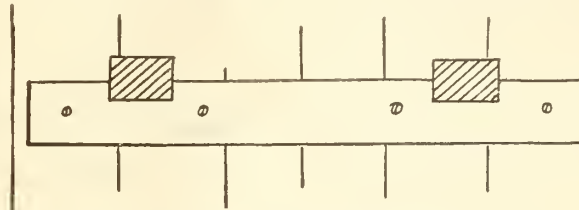
### Roosts.

The roosts in a poultry house should be all together, all on the same level, and as low as may be without depriving the fowls of the use of the floor space below them. The old ladder-like arrangement of roosts was a bad one. The fowls would crowd for the top perches, crowd each other off, and in such accidents and in jumping from the upper roosts in the morning many fowls were injured. Usually one or two roosts the length of one side of the apartment are all that a pen of fowls require. The Rhode Island farmers alluded to above have roosts in half the house, but their fowls are expected to be out doors most of the time, the snow rarely lying long there. The conditions in their houses when the hens are occasionally snow-bound are not the best.

The form of the roost is not of as much importance as many suppose. The primitive roosts were round poles, and some still insist that they are better than squared roosts. Evidence to support this proposition is not abundant. Wide flat roosts, three or four inches wide, seem to give the best general satisfaction, though a good many use roosts only two inches wide and either flat or more or less rounded on the upper side.

Whatever the upper surface of the roost, it should be thick enough to sustain the weight of the fowls without bending or breaking. An inch board will answer for short roosts, or for roosts for light fowls up to about 8-foot lengths. For heavy fowls a roost 8 ft. long and 4 in. wide should be quite 2 in. thick. A roost of such dimensions and length needs support

only at the ends, but longer roosts should have support in the middle as well. The roost should be strong enough and its supports such that it remains level and firm when filled with fowls. A roost that sags is likely to break, and some of the



Strip Attached to Wall to Support Ends of Roosts.

fowls might in such event, be badly hurt. Besides the sagging, springing roost is most uncomfortable, as any one may discover by watching the fowls on it.

For supports for roosts we have quite a variety. I use at the ends simple strips as shown in the cut, with notches in them to hold the roosts in place. These strips are fastened to the walls with screws, and are easily taken down when the house is cleaned. In fact all the fixtures in my houses are such that a compartment can be stripped bare in a very few minutes, a matter of considerable importance when fighting lice.

Just here let me say that with reasonable cleanliness and healthy hens given opportunity to dust themselves, I have never had any trouble with lice in the houses. But because of the number of persons reporting it as impossible to get rid of lice though they were very thorough in treating the premises with that end in view, I did, several years ago let my buildings get literally alive with red mites. Then stripping them of fixtures, whitewashing the walls, and using insecticides on roosts and nests, I had no trouble in clearing the premises of mites in short order. The way the houses were built and furnished made the work easy. I would not care to take the job of cleaning some houses I know of mites.

For a middle support for long roosts I use a similar strip attached by one end to the rear wall, and by the other to a strip hanging from a rafter.

There are several styles of roost brackets, (all I believe of the anti-lice type, with oil cups attached), on the market that are very good.

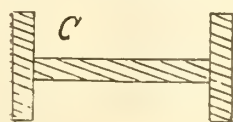
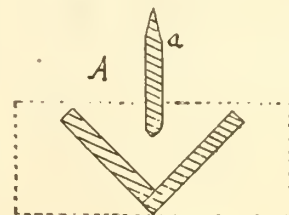
Some poultrymen attach the roosts to strips which hinge to the rear wall, so that the two, or more, roosts together swing back against the wall during the day.

Where droppings boards are used the roosts may be attached to the walls as just described, or may rest on the droppings boards. Various kinds of iron and wooden legs or standards to support roosts above the droppings boards have been devised. I think it may be said that in general the supports from the board interfere more or less with the removal of the droppings, especially when the ends of several roosts rest on the same support.

So far we have been considering only plain straight roosts. Quite a number of ingenious arrangements designed to prevent crowding on the roosts have been devised and reported as highly satisfactory, but these rarely take with any but the inventors. In fact, I could not now name a single one that had gained any popularity. There is rarely serious crowding on the roosts if roost room is ample and the roosts on a level. Give fowls an allowance of a foot, or quite that, of roost room each, and you will have little trouble with crowding. As hens sit close on the roost they don't occupy so much room, but some allowance must be made for opportunity to shift positions and get up and down.

### Feed Troughs, Boxes and Hoppers.

Most of the feed troughs used are very simple. The accompanying cut shows cross sections of the styles most commonly used. The V-shaped trough and the single trough with low straight sides are oftenest seen, but I think the double reversible trough with straight sides is the best of all. Its superiority is marked on a large plant.

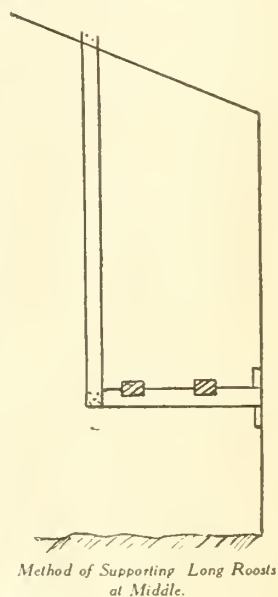


Cross Sections of Feed Troughs.

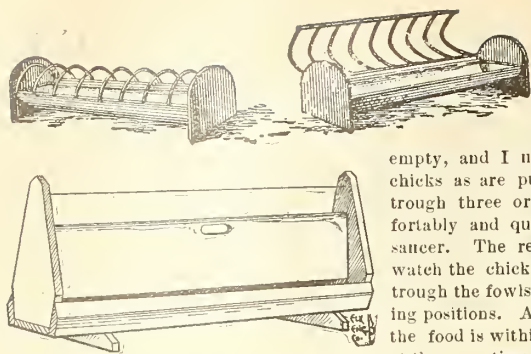
A V-shaped trough, a board fixed on edge to keep fowls out of trough, B shallow box trough, C double or reversible box trough.

Many different patterns of troughs have been devised to keep the fowls out of the troughs and to keep them from crowding while feeding. Some of these are shown in accompanying illustrations. I have used a good many such troughs, but went back for good long ago to the open troughs as much easier to feed in.

I discovered accidentally a few years ago that it was much easier to feed fowls in short wide troughs than in long narrow ones. I needed some additional troughs, and being pressed for time, thought I would make shift for awhile with a few of the shallow boxes in which small potted plants are sold, which I happened to have on hand. These boxes are about a foot wide and 16 to 18 in. long, the sides being about 2 in. high. I allow one such box to 8 or 10 fowls, and find that with the boxes a few feet apart I can throw or drop mash into them from a spoon or shake it from the pail much easier than into narrow troughs, and do it so quickly that the flock is fed before the crowding begins. I am still using some of these boxes and some narrow troughs, and the advantage of the wide short trough seems as plain as ever. Though I have not tried it, I think a box a foot square would answer for just as many hens as the oblong boxes I have. Occasionally when feeding a flock



Method of Supporting Long Roosts at Middle.



Protected Feed Troughs.

Sometimes the feed trough is attached at one end by a hinge to the wall of the house, and when not in use is raised and secured in position against the wall. The advantage of this is not as great as would be supposed, for dirt and litter collect between the trough and the wall, and when the trough is let down a good part of the dirt is likely to drop into the trough, necessitating raising it again to allow this dirt to drop out. Taking one thing with another, more poultry men prefer the loose trough, and though some hang the troughs up on pegs or large nails when not in use, more leave them on the floor all the time.

A fixed feed trough in or next the passage is sometimes used, but this arrangement is quite

of chicks I find that they have outgrown their trough accommodations. I give them some mash in the earthen saucers I use for water, if those happen to be

empty, and I notice that nearly half as many chicks as are pushing and crowding around a trough three or four feet long, will feed comfortably and quietly in a circle around an 8 in. saucer. The reason is easy to discover if you watch the chicks for a few minutes. At a long trough the fowls and chicks are constantly changing positions. At a short box or round pan all the food is within reach of all the fowls about it at the same time, and there is no inducement to move.

rare, and I have seen more than one place in which it had been installed where the feeding mash was fed in movable troughs in the pens.

For feeding dry grains in bulk, and ground feed stuffs dry self-feeding hoppers are much better than troughs, and if feeding is regularly done in this way hoppers should be used. The illustrations show different methods of constructing hoppers. The size required depends on the size of the flock and the frequency of feeding.

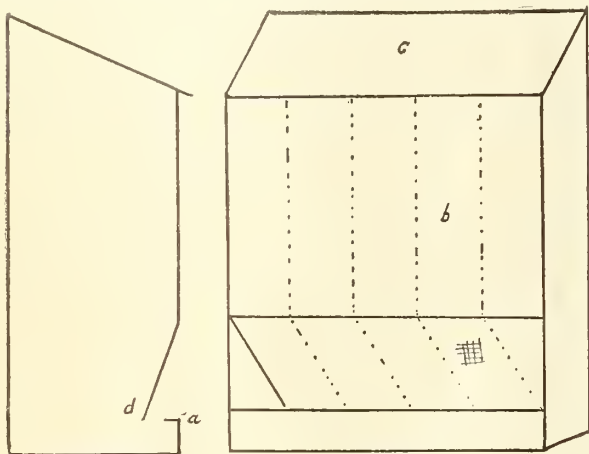


Fig. 1. Dr. Nottoge's Hopper for Dry Feed—Five Compartments.  
Fig. 2—Front View.

ing. Some poultry keepers keeping hens on the colony system, with free range, use hoppers large enough to hold a bag of grain.

### Drinking Vessels.

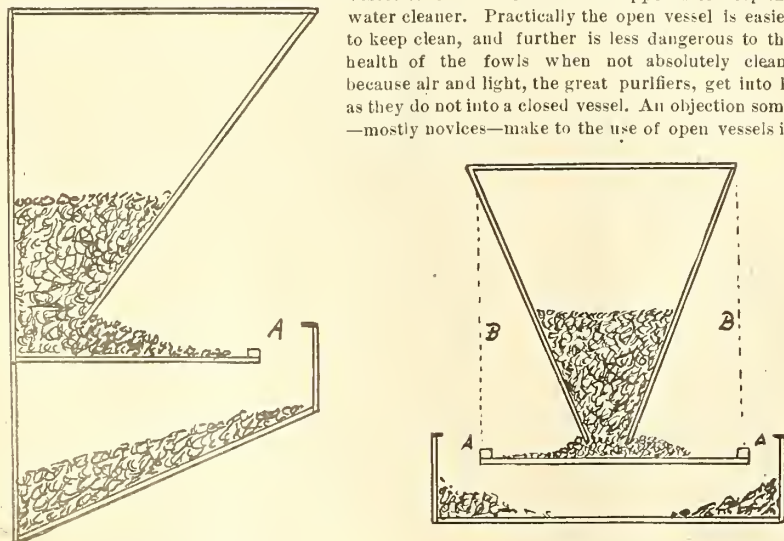
Of these there is a great variety made especially for fowls, and a still greater variety made for other or general purposes are used for drinking vessels in the poultry yard.

Of the drinking fountains made especially for poultry, some are stoneware; some of earthenware; some of metal, usually galvanized iron. Most of them are of the self-feeding pattern, a receptacle for water over a shallow pan into which it feeds by pressure, keeping the pan full as long as the water in the reservoir holds out. Some have reservoir and saucer in one piece, others in two pieces, that they may be separated and more easily cleaned.

While a great many such drinking fountains are in use, the greater number of poultrymen seem to prefer an open vessel, at least for adult fowls. For chicks perhaps the majority prefer self-feeding fountains with shallow pans into which the chicks cannot get. These fountains too are better for fowls having large crests and beards or combs and wattles.

For an open drinking vessel for fowls or good sized chicks, almost anything that will hold the required quantity of water will answer. I use mostly 6 qt. wooden pails, but have a galvanized iron pan or two, and one old porcelain lined open kettle. On one of the largest plants in this vicinity all the drinking vessels are porcelain lined iron kettles holding about a gallon each. On another plant stone jars of about the same capacity are used. On a farm I visited a few years ago, I saw shallow cast iron pans, as I remember about 2½ or 3 in. deep and 8 in. square, which the owner had had cast at a nearby foundry for that purpose. The cost was I believe about 15 cents each, but after this lapse of time I would not say positively.

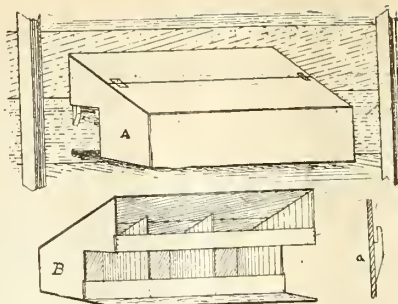
As between closed and open drinking vessels the latter seem to be preferred by most poultry keepers, except as noted above. Theoretically and in the eyes of the novice the covered vessel is better because it is supposed to keep the water cleaner. Practically the open vessel is easier to keep clean, and further is less dangerous to the health of the fowls when not absolutely clean, because air and light, the great purifiers, get into it as they do not into a closed vessel. An objection some—mostly novices—make to the use of open vessels is



Hopper for Fowls.

Hopper for Chicks.

Anti-Waste Feed Hoppers Designed by Subscriber to F.P.



Dork Nest to Hang on Wall.

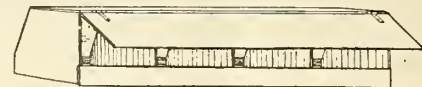
A—Exterior View. B—Interior View. a—block to hold nest in place.

being easily upset, very little droppings will get into them. It is the wide shallow pan that catches the droppings.

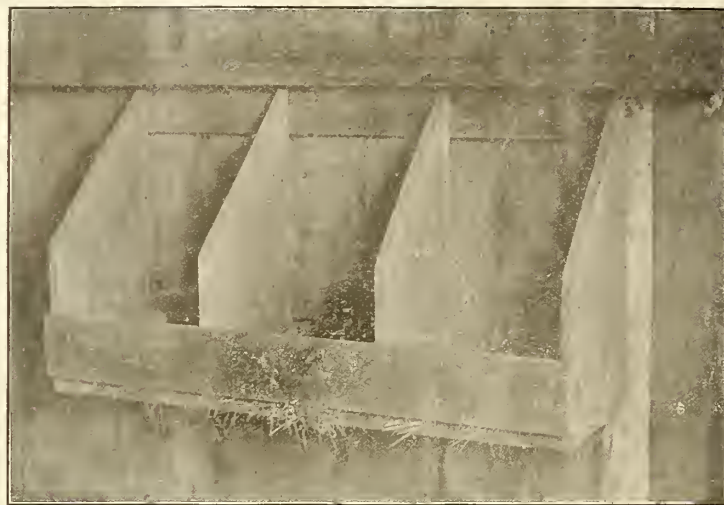
### Nests for Laying Hens.

**Number of Nests Needed.**—The old method was to provide almost as many nests as there were hens in the flock. Indeed I have before me an old drawing of a model poultry house for twenty-four hens in which there were twenty-four nests. It was early observed and continues to be observed, that no matter how many nests are provided, the hens usually all go to a certain few of the nests, and rather than lay elsewhere will crowd on those nests or sit near them waiting their turns.

Most poultry keepers still continue to provide many more nests than are used. I find a nest to every five or six hens enough, and have often allowed only one nest to seven or eight hens, say three nests in a pen of twenty to twenty-five hens, and found the allowance satisfactory, even when the hens were laying well. That, however, depends on the flock. Sometimes all the hens in a flock are quick layers, again they are slow to very slow, or the laying habits of the



Dark Nests to Go Under Droppings Boards.



Triple Set Skeleton Nests in Place in Poultry House.

hens are very uneven. So I allow as a rule one nest to a pen of three or four hens, two to a pen of six to twelve hens, and from four to six to a pen of twenty to twenty-five hens, according as they seem to need them.

### Styles of Nests.

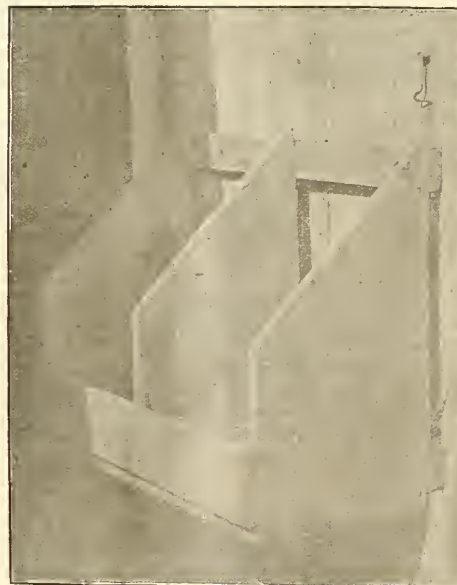
The nest boxes should be movable. Whenever more than one nest is necessary it is customary to make the nests in sections of two or more. Sometimes these are built under the droppings board, but even here the construction may and should be such that the nests are easily

moved and taken out of the house for thorough cleaning and airing.

It has been a very common practice to make and place the nests so they would be quite dark. This is done in part because the hen is supposed to prefer a secluded place to lay, and in part to prevent the development of the egg eating habit among the hens.

To economize floor space as much as possible, it is customary to place the nests on the wall several feet from the floor; or if they are put under the droppings boards, these are usually placed high enough to allow the hens the use of the floor below the nests, though sometimes in a house with low north wall and roosts next this wall, the nests are on the ground, with the droppings board forming the top of them.

Leghorns and other high flyers will go as a rule to the highest nest accessible. I once nailed a small box in a corner close up to the roof in a pen of Silver Dorkings, and all but one or two very heavy hens would go to that nest though there were others more accessible. Hens of the larger breeds will often go to the corners on the floor of the



Double Skeleton Nests.

The nests as photographed were attached to an outer door to get full light and a position that would show construction. This frame is 12 in. wide; 28 in. long. Ends 10 in. high in front, 18 in. high at back. Front strip 4 in. wide; 2 back strips 2 in. wide.

[Continued on page 391].

# Some Old Experiments in Poultry Feeding\*

## Experiments of M. Reaumur with Grain.

THE quantity of food consumed was ascertained to depend on the size of the fowl. Two bantams, on this account, may be maintained at the same expense as one Spanish fowl. M. Reaumur has seen four common fowls eat as much as eight others, and amongst these small feeders there were three of the largest size, and three of the remaining five only a trifle smaller. But these are exceptions to the general rules, and such as are not of common occurrence.

For the purpose of accurately ascertaining the quantities of food consumed, M. Reaumur confined fowls separately under basket coops; and others in hutches enclosed with wooden gratings, where they had more convenience, even so much as to lay eggs there in the same way as if they had been at liberty. To the hens in each hutch he put a cock, in order that nothing might be wanting to the completeness of his experiments. In some hutches he placed as many as seven hens, and in others as few as two. For several days together he gave, both to the fowls in the basket coops, and to those that lived in company in the hutches, the same quantity of grain, measured so as to more than fill their crops, care being taken never to have the box containing the grain empty. The box was so constructed that every grain of corn could be easily accounted for. Gravel was also spread upon the bottom of the hutches and coops, and some was placed in a separate vessel, being deemed indispensable to aid digestion.

Whatever was the nature of the grain, nearly the same measure was found sufficient for the same fowl every day. The variation of the seasons may affect the appetite of fowls, and they may require more food at one period than at another; but during the months of January and February, it was found that a common barn-door fowl would consume one-fourth of a pint of grain daily, of any of three sorts that were placed before her. This is rather above the average, although some of a voracious appetite and large size will consume a third of a pint measure.

The difference of weight in different kinds of grain, does not seem to affect the consumption. Rye weighs less than wheat, yet a fowl will be satisfied with a less quantity of the former than of the latter; in some cases, with so little as one-half, but whether with the same beneficial effects, is another question. Maize, Indian corn, or Cobbett's corn, as it is sometimes termed, was found to rank intermediate between rye and wheat. When maize was exclusively given, the greatest eaters only consumed the first day about one-eighth of a pint measure, but by usage they came to relish it more, and the cock and seven hens, which were rather above the average rate of eaters, consumed daily one pint and a quarter of maize. Accordingly five-fourths of maize to them were equivalent to six-fourths of wheat and to three-fourths of rye.

The consumption of each sort of grain daily, by a common barn-door fowl, will be rather too great, if we take the data furnished by what was eaten by the cock and seven hens, as some of these were of very large size and great eaters; though it is more convenient, for the practical purposes of estimating expense, to be above rather than below the average: what is spent less than what one is willing to spend becomes, in one sense, clear profit. We may therefore safely estimate, that a barn-door fowl, of the common size, having as much as she can eat during the day, will consume,

|                                | Pint. | Meas. |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Of oats, buckwheat, or barley, | 1-4   | 8-32  |
| Of wheat,                      |       | 6-32  |
| Of maize, or Indian corn,      |       | 5-32  |
| Of rye                         |       | 3-32  |

Although, from the experiments already detailed, as made with wheat and rye, it appears that the average consumption is not always in proportion to the specified weight of the corn, yet it is of importance to know the relative weights of each grain, in all such experiments. M. Reaumur carefully weighed a pint measure of each as it came from the corn chandler's, when he found the weights to be the following:

|            | oz. | dr. | gr. |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat,     | 19  | 1   | 52  |
| Rye,       | 18  | 4   | 12  |
| Maize,     | 17  | 5   | 48  |
| Buckwheat, | 16  | 7   | 12  |
| Barley,    | 14  | 0   | 48  |
| Oats,      | 10  | 3   | 12  |

After weighing, each of the sorts of grain was put separately into a paper bag, and laid in a low and very damp room for nearly two months, when they were again weighed. The measure, which had been streaked in the first instance, was now found to have the corn considerably above the brim, owing to the increase of bulk from moisture; the weights were the following:

|            | oz. | dr. | gr. |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat,     | 19  | 3   | 48  |
| Rye,       | 19  | 3   | 36  |
| Maize,     | 17  | 6   | 12  |
| Buckwheat, | 17  | 0   | 48  |
| Barley,    | 13  | 7   | 12  |
| Oats,      | 10  | 3   | 12  |

The same grains, after a second weighing, were kept in a hot room of a uniform temperature, sufficient to hatch eggs, for three months successively, when they were again measured and weighed. They did not now fill the measure by a third of an inch, though they had stood above the brim when taken from the damp room; the weights were the following:

|            | oz. | dr. | gr. |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat,     | 18  | 1   | 54  |
| Rye,       | 18  | 1   | 18  |
| Maize,     | 16  | 3   | 18  |
| Buckwheat, | 15  | 7   | 36  |
| Barley,    | 12  | 6   | 6   |
| Oats,      | 9   | 5   | 12  |

These tables show that buckwheat is considerably heavier than barley and oats; yet a fowl will require as much by measure of buckwheat daily to satisfy her as of any of the other two sorts of grain. The cause of this apparent anomaly may, perhaps, lie in the peculiarity of taste, one sort of grain being more pleasing to their palate than another, and inducing them to eat gluttonously more than might suffice them, in the same way as dainties will induce ourselves to eat more than nature requires. In order to determine, if possible, the case in question, M. Reaumur had a partition made in the feeding boxes, dividing it into two equal compartments, into one of which he put a measure of wheat, and into the other a measure of rye. Three hens and one cock were put to feed upon these, and did not show any preference to either of the sorts of grain, as there remained after their first morning's repast about an equal quantity of wheat and rye; while in the course of the day they finished what they had left, emptying the two compartments almost at the same time.

Experiments of this kind are only important so far as they tend to show what sort of food is most to their liking. It is a general rule, that all animals thrive best on what they relish most. This point also engaged the attention of M. Reaumur. He placed different sorts of grain in different compartments of the same box, or he mixed them together in the same compartment. A cock and a hen to which a mixture of wheat and oats was given, preferred the former to the latter, and at night there was left a fourth or a sixth part of the whole quantity, but not one particle of wheat. It was afterwards seen that a general conclusion could not be drawn from this isolated case. On the same day there was given to a single hen under a coop, a measure of wheat, in one compartment of her feeding box, and a measure of oats in the other. She ate all the oats, and left the wheat. A measure of rye was given to her next day, which she preferred to the wheat she had left the day before. To the same hen was given a measure of wheat and oats mixed in equal quantities. At first she was seen to eat both sorts of grain, but as she continued to feed, the oats began to disappear, and the wheat to predominate, till at length every grain of oats was consumed, and about one-sixth of the wheat was left untouched.

At another time, M. Reaumur gave to a cock and a hen, kept in the same hutch, three different sorts of grain, namely, maize, oats, and buckwheat, each put separately in three different compartments of the feeding box. The cock came first to the maize, and after eyeing it for a time, he finally refused to touch it, but turned to the buckwheat, of which he picked up a few grains, and then went to the oats. He continued for some minutes to taste alternately a little of the one and a little of the other. On the other hand, the hen no sooner saw the maize than she pounced upon it voraciously, and never offered to quit it for either of the others. As the hutch confined their motions, he tried the effect of turning the box, so as to bring the maize opposite the cock, and the others more within the reach of the hen; but the cock even then never offered to touch the maize, but went around to the other two sorts, while the hen also changed sides, and recommenced eating the maize with avidity. Next day the same cock and hen were served with the three sorts of grain as before; but now the hen seemed as little disposed as the cock to try the maize, but fixed upon the buckwheat, and the cock also preferred this to the oats, of which, however, he occasionally swallowed a few grains. What was left of the oats was next eaten, and in the course of the day the maize was at length consumed. Yellow colored maize is never so good as the reddish or reddish brown.

Many similar experiments, varied and combined in every possible way, were repeated by M. Reaumur, all tending to show that great variability of taste prevails among feathered as well as unfeathered bipeds. One hen preferring the food she has been accustomed to, and another pouncing greedily upon something new. One thing is very certain, at least: it is not because one sort of grain is larger, heavier, or plumper than another, that they eat more or less of it, or prefer it to others; but it is probable that the grain of which they consume the least furnishes the greater proportion of chyle—the bland creamy fluid prepared by digestion to mix with the blood for promoting the growth and repairing the waste of the body,—in a word, that which supplies the most nourishment. Experiments, which will be given elsewhere, proved that the sorts of food most easily digested by fowls, are those of which they eat the greatest quantity. Of the six sorts of grain already mentioned, they evidently became soonest tired of and least partial to rye,

## Boiled Grains.

French poultry keepers generally cook the grain intended for the fowls they wish to fatten. They boil it till the farina swell and softens, so as to burst the enveloping membrane. It is the general opinion, that burst grain is better than dry, for fattening poultry, and whether this is founded upon accurate experiment or not, it is of importance to ascertain the difference of expense between the two, and whether more or less is eaten of the one than of the other. To discover this, M. Reaumur caused four pint-measures of each of the six common sorts of grain to be boiled till they were well burst, and he found that the increase of bulk in each sort was the following:—

|                                                                                        | Pint measures. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Four pint-measures of oats, after being boiled to bursting, filled                     | 7              |
| Four pint-measures of barley, after being boiled to bursting, filled                   | 10             |
| Four pint-measures of buckwheat, after being boiled to bursting, filled                | 14             |
| Four pint-measures of maize, after being boiled to bursting, filled above              | 15             |
| Four pint-measures of wheat, after being boiled to bursting, filled a little more than | 10             |
| Four pint-measures of rye, after being boiled to bursting, filled nearly               | 15             |

Rice swells considerably more by boiling than any of these six sorts, but it is seldom given to poultry, except for fattening, under the notion that it tends to whiten the flesh.

To ascertain whether the boiling altered the liking of fowls for any of the particular sorts, experiments, varied in every possible way, similar to those already detailed, were made by M. Reaumur. The fowls were furnished with two, three, four, five and six different sorts, sometimes all the kinds were devoured alike, and at another nothing but dry grain, and a third, nothing but boiled. All that could be collected from these experiments was, that the greater number of fowls prefer boiled grain to raw, though there are many of them that show a preference to the dry grain on certain days, and no permanency could be discovered in the preference shown for any sort of burst grain. Some fowls, for example, which one day preferred boiled wheat, would on other days make choice of buckwheat, or maize, oats or barley, and sometimes, though more seldom, even of rye; but rye, either boiled or raw, is the least favorite sort of grain. It follows as an important conclusion from such experiments, that we may make choice of the sort of grain which happens to be cheapest, without much, if any, disadvantage; always excepting rye, when other sorts are to be had on reasonable terms.

Other experiments were required to show whether there is any economy, or the contrary, in feeding poultry with boiled grain, and this was readily ascertained from knowing, first, how much dry grain sufficed for one or more fowls, and then boiling the same quantity, and trying how much of that would in a like manner be sufficient. The experiments made with the different sorts of grain were as follows:

Rye, although so very considerably increased in bulk by boiling, instead of being more filling, becomes less so, and more of it is eaten when boiled than when raw. Oats, although increased in bulk, nearly one-half, by boiling, are not on this account rendered more sufficing, for the fowls which in two days consume four pint-measures of dry oats, in the same period eat seven pints of them when boiled, so that there appears to be no economy in the additional trouble. Mowbray says, that oats have a scouring tendency, although they are recommended as promotive of laying, and in the south of England are much used for fattening. Buckwheat swells still more than oats, by boiling, but fowls will consume fourteen pints boiled in the same space of time that four dry ones would be sufficient. Mowbray pronounces it an unsustaining food. Maize, however, is said to be more profitable boiled than raw. When kept long upon it, they begin to dislike it, and it is perhaps on this account that less of boiled maize is consumed. The saving is supposed to be about one-third or one-fifth.

Fowls, which would have eaten two pint-measures of dry barley a day, ate but three pint-measures of the boiled grain. Therefore, as ten pint-measures of boiled barley are produced from four pint-measures of dry, three pints of the boiled are equivalent to no more than six-fifths of a pint of the dry; consequently the experience in dry barley is to that of boiled as ten-fifths to six-fifths, that is, as ten to six, or as five to three, showing a saving of two-fifths by giving boiled instead of dry barley.

We have found by experience, that barley is more profitable and effective when boiled than when raw. If given warm, not hot, we have known it to hasten, materially, the period of laying, and to promote, in a high degree, the health and comfort of the hens.

Wheat, as shown in the preceding table, increases in bulk by boiling, nearly the same as barley, and these interesting experiments prove that the use of boiled maize, barley, or wheat, is a matter of economy. The expense of fuel must be taken into account, but in the routine of almost any domestic establishment, this must be comparatively trifling. It may not be unnecessary to repeat, that there is no profit, but only the loss of fuel, time, and trouble, in boiling oats, buckwheat, and rye.

\*Reprinted from "The Poultry Yard," by Peter Boswell, of Greenlaw. First American Edition, 1841.

# Editorial Page of Farm - Poultry

## The Poultry Business "Finding Itself."

GEOLOGISTS discussing the progressive changes in the surface of the earth and in the character of its creatures, recognize two kinds of evolutionary periods:—periods of slow development and periods of rapid transition. The counterparts of these may easily be found in the poultry world, and it is in the period of slow and almost unobserved developments that the most far reaching and lasting changes take place. Through such a period we are now passing, and some of the changes taking place begin to be quite conspicuous.

Most notable of these is the simultaneous increase of interest in poultry keeping among farmers and decrease of interest in large, exclusive poultry plants. The big plant is still interesting to a great many people, and in some of its aspects is interesting to all, but it is not so much the center of attraction as it was a few years ago, nor is it as easy to find an exclusive poultry plant that seems to be prosperous and successful. A few of the old large plants, either more favored in opportunities or better managed than the rest, survive, but the greater number are either discontinued, or plainly "gone by." The number of new plants being established on the old lines is possibly as great as ever, but from the falling off of popular interest in large ventures they attract less attention than formerly. We think, too, that the projectors of such plants are a little less persistent in maintaining them at a loss than formerly, and this we are disposed to attribute to the more discouraging effect of the state of general opinion.

It may be that the conditions and changes noted are more marked in New England than elsewhere, yet much information from other sections shows the same general tendencies. The notable features of the change are the greater awakening of farmers to the development of the poultry opportunities of their farms and the more frequent combinations of poultry keeping with other branches of small farming.

Many of the prevalent ideas of ten years ago are now little heard of. Time was when you could hardly peruse a poultry paper or the poultry department of an agricultural paper without finding some comparison of the profit of poultry as compared with other farm interests — with poultry always the most profitable and the conclusion always that therefore it was better to let everything else go and give all time and capital to poultry.

That kind of reasoning was wrong, and that policy was a mistaken one,—as many learned to their cost. It is only an occasional man or woman or a man or woman in somewhat exceptional circumstances who finds it most profitable to make poultry keeping an exclusive specialty. For the great majority it must be either a part of a combination of branches of farm work or a side issue.

Intensive methods, as we had occasion to remark not long ago, have not proved suitable for permanent methods. They impose too much work on the poultryman and concentrate the risks of the enterprise too much. The model intensive poultry plant seems to be passing away. It is a fact that today in this vicinity where only a few years ago it was possible to refer an inquirer to a long list of such plants, now we are sometimes puzzled to find one that will illustrate what he wants to see. The South Shore poultrymen use intensive methods to a great extent, as is necessary in growing winter chickens, but even among them abundance of land to spread the chickens over in the spring is regarded as desirable, and most of those located on small farms constantly feel the pressure for more room.

Of plants near Boston there are fanciers' plants where the intensive styles of housing are adapted to more roomy outdoor accommodations than usually go with that system that still serve as model illustrations for the visitor to this section, but of intensive plants for eggs and broilers on a large scale not one of those we used to send inquirers to is now operating on the old lines. The last of them — we were quite shocked to find when we visited it a year or so ago, mostly disused, and the owner letting egg farming on that line go — farming his breeding stock out with the farmers in his vicinity, and working more and more into a trade in breeding stock and eggs for hatching. How many people we sent out there under the impression that it was still running full, we don't know. They must have been sorely disappointed. We hereby apologize to each and all.

But the proprietor of this plant, though drifting away from the lines on which it was built, is working into a more satisfactory business. His stock now, instead of being gathered on one small farm is spread over several large farms. He is working and living easier and making more.

A plant which has grown many broilers has this year grown almost none, the proprietor finding it more profitable to give all his attention to the sale of new hatched chicks through the season when he would have hatched for broilers, and then use his brooder house for winter chicks for soft roasters.



## Where It Needs Mending.

PROPOS of the discussion of changes in the constitution of the American Poultry Association to enlarge the circle of its operations the *Reliable Poultry Journal* makes the point that it is not necessary inasmuch as the present statement of the objects of the association is a general statement so worded as to cover anything the association might wish to do in the furtherance of poultry interests.

The same paper calls attention to the fact that the constitution now provides for some degree of supervision of shows as well as for membership of local associations in the A. P. A., but this provision is practically inoperative, the local associations showing little disposition to affiliate with the A. P. A., on the basis provided, and the A. P. A. undertaking no supervision of shows.

The inference given is that additional legislation is not necessary, what exists being sufficient if made operative.

In such an "if" the trouble lies, and for that "if" another portion of the constitution — i. e. — the membership section, is responsible, as has been pointed out repeatedly both by persons inside and outside of the A. P. A. The individual membership feature in a "national" organization of interests as great as the poultry interests is wrong in principle and productive of trouble in practice. Meetings of the association are moved about this great country. Rarely are two consecutive meetings held in the same section. The association being national must not localize itself by confining its meetings to one section. Having members all over the United States, it must, within a cycle of years so distribute its meetings that no section will be neglected, and all members have equal opportunities to attend meetings and legislate for poultry interests.

This sounds well but does not work well. The attendance at each meeting is a local attendance, and often made up mostly of persons not at any recent meeting or never at a meeting before. The exceptions are the secretary and president and a few others principally connected with the poultry press, whose business connections and interests warrant the expense of attending meetings wherever held. The result of such attendance is that the few familiar with the business of the association dominate in its meetings, and that the discussions of the association rarely get beyond the few matters in which some of these have special interest.

If the American Poultry Association wants "to do things," this state of affairs must be remedied. The development of useful policies requires time, some degree of permanence in the attendance at the meetings, and to the officers, some assurance of terms long enough to enable them to inaugurate policies looking toward the development of the usefulness of the association. As it has been an officer interested in improving the organization's affairs is likely either to act precipitately, as in the matter of the changes in the constitution at Charleston, in order to get as good a start as possible; or as in the case of a recent president from whom some expected

much, refrain from doing anything rather than take the risk of being held responsible for measures he could not complete within his administration, and in which a succeeding administration might take either no interest or a hostile one.

No reform or reorganization of the A. P. A. which fails to provide for great improvement in the conditions of attendance at meetings can amount to much. With the bulk of the membership in individual memberships — whether life or annual — the only way to secure the attendance of a considerable number of the same persons at all annual meetings is to have the meetings held year after year in the same place, or in the same section. Something of this kind we believe was in the minds of some reorganizers.

We doubt whether it could be put into effect. Had the association business enough to have a home office of its own the office and secretary might well be placed permanently, but the meetings of the association must continue to be itinerant or it will quickly lose what hold it has on its members in other sections than that favored as the headquarters. It follows, therefore, that the association must adopt a plan of membership which will bring many men regularly to its meetings wherever held.



## Forcing the Molt.

"PRACTICAL" poultry keepers, like fanciers, have to have their fads. First one has a run, then another, then another. Interest in 200-egg hens having abated a little, "forcing the molt" begins to receive more and more attention. A few years ago an institute lecturer made something of a sensation by exploiting his method of forcing hens to molt when it suited him, and quickly.

The method was to starve the hens for a period of ten days or a fortnight, then feed very heavily. It was said that as soon as heavy feeding began the hens would quickly shed all their old feathers, and grow the new coat and resume laying in a few weeks, the whole process requiring only about half the usual time.

The method was no more new or original than sundry others occasionally thrown out to the public, but the method of giving it publicity attracted wide attention. Experiments with it followed. For a year or two these were generally unsatisfactory. Then came reports of success in quick succession. Last year there were a good many such reports — though not many of them have such fullness of detail and statement of subsequent results as an inquiring mind calls for before making up its opinion.

This year reports come so thick and fast (relating chiefly to last year's work) that we begin to fear that some people are drawing too strongly on their imaginations. There seems to be with some a feeling that to be strictly up to date they must have forced their hens to molt.

Wise poultrymen will go slow before trying the process on many or valuable fowls. Two weeks semi-starvation, followed by very heavy feeding, is not in accordance with rational ideas about feeding. It may sometimes cause hens to drop their feathers quickly, though in some tests made by comparison, the hens given usual treatment molted quickest and laid better all the time. Last year, when most of the successes with this method were made, hens generally dropped their feathers quickly at the time those we heard from — and they were quite numerous — were making their experiments, yet we do not remember hearing from any of these that their hens were distinguishing themselves during the early winter.

The heroic method of forcing the molt is too radical and harsh. It probably has bad effects on fowls subjected to it. It is reasonable to suppose that it would have. That aspect of the subject has not been given much, if any, attention.



## Unsuccessful, but Not "Sensible" of It.

TO AN Irishman watching the spasmodic movements of the jaws of a defunct snapping turtle is attributed the remark, "The cratur's dead, but he's uon sensible av it." In the same case, according to an exchange, would seem to be some people who for many years have made a living, or a goodly part of one, from poultry.

Says the editor of that paper: "If you are not absolutely certain which of your hens are among the best layers, you have not got fairly started on the road to success."

As we have met them, the poultry keepers who knew much about many individual fowls have rarely brought their success to the stage where it could stand alone, while of the many successful poultrymen we have known most have known little of the individual work of their hens. It is as easy for some people to go too far in seeking to know their hens individually as it is for others not to give enough attention to the study of individuals; but for practical financial results we would look to the man who, without knowing his fowls thoroughly as individuals, gets, generally, uniformly good production, rather than to the one whose close study of individuals enables him to accumulate much exact and sometimes interesting information about them. For all ordinary operations and conditions in the poultry yard we have to make the flock — not the individual — the unit. Work in which we use individual birds as units is, or should be, experimental or special work, and a poultry keeper who has to make a financial success of poultry keeping has to avoid overloading himself with experiments and special features.

Successful poultry culture depends not so much on what a man knows as on what he does. Granted that the man who knows most should work to best advantage and so be most successful; we still have to claim that though theoretically that should be so, practically it is not.



## Feeding Experiments Long Ago.

WE THINK a great many will read with interest the account of old experiments in feeding poultry reprinted in this issue. To us it seems to represent a great deal more than the work and the ideas of the few men whose names are mentioned in it.

People have kept domestic fowls since before the days of authentic history, and undoubtedly a great many through all these centuries have made experiments in feeding, the knowledge of which did not go beyond themselves or their own small circle of acquaintances.

It is in the freer circulation of information about poultry and the raising of the standard of general knowledge of poultry and of general care of and results from the fowls kept that this age excels, in "practical" matters. In the fancy it surpasses in the "finish" it puts on the fowls.

It is open to reasonable doubt whether the most that anyone of us know about the handling of a few fowls, or the best results we get from them much surpass the knowledge and skill of some poultry keepers of hundreds of years ago. The development of general interest in poultry culture however is of very recent growth, and there are thousands of good poultry keepers now where formerly there might be found but one.

By the way, in this connection the editor would acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. W. H. Bettie, of Oaklyn, N. J., for his kindness in adding the book from which this reprint is taken to our collection of poultry literature. Mr. Bettie found the book among some old ones stored in his attic. Doubtless many another attic contains books and papers and old letters that would be treasures to one interested in poultry literature. If any of our readers have piles of old books and papers we would suggest that they look through them, and it would give us pleasure to learn of discoveries in this line, even though we might not personally profit by them.

## Of Interest to Those Who Have Been Controverting With E. L. C. Morse.

**N**OW, friends, hold your breath, and don't laugh. Looking over the August exchanges the editor came to the *American Poultry Journal*, and, turning its pages to see what therein was of most interest to him, came to an article headed, "Oxygen—An Experiment." Being something of a crank on oxygen himself, he looked twice at the heading. Then, as his habit is, he looked for the signature.—"E. L. C. Morse."

This increased his interest. Here is a part of what he read:

"Not very long after that I began to get wise. I made up my mind that what birds needed was fresh air—oxygen, in short—and I determined that those birds should keep well or die on their roosts frozen stiff. During the fall I kept the windows open at night. Of course I had it arranged that there should be no draft on them, but the fresh air was there in wholesome abundance all right every night. In the early winter I closed the win-

dows at night, but I had cracks in the house so that one could stick a knife blade through. When it got decidedly cold I put up burlap curtains in front of the roosts (which were close to the low roof), but I did not close the cracks. During January and February I doubled the burlap curtains, but left the cracks as before. The water in the fountains froze solid every night. A few of the birds had their combs nipped.

"But how about the roup and snuffles, and beery eyes and rattling throats? Nary a one! Birds in fighting trim all the while, and never a sick one. I made this valuable discovery three years ago, and have pursued this policy ever since. Have forgotten what roup looks like."

Coming after his contribution to F. P. during the early part of this year, this would seem to mark Mr. Morse as very near kin to "the only nationality in the world that can get up a fight without an excuse."

## Some Practical Ideas About Incubators and Brooders.

**I** HAVE read a great deal in poultry papers about running incubators, and it is amusing as well as instructive to see what a difference in opinions, as well as experience, after the hatch is over. This incubator question is, and has been, a dear thing to many that have used them. I have made, remodeled, experimented, and thrown away a great deal of time, money, and patience with incubators, and, after all, I would advise anyone that is to get an incubator to buy one of factory make. The best is none too good, as you will have some disappointments that you will never forget.

The question is—what is the best one, or who makes the best one? Here is a question one must find out for himself. But if you send to every maker of incubators for a catalogue you will find that they are all well recommended by a lot of testimonials, and all will guarantee they are the best, and will not vary, and so on. Then when you get the final instructions for running the machine they will tell you if the thermometer gets up to 105° or even 106° or so, it will do no harm for a certain number of hours, and so on. My advice has always been to anyone thinking of getting a machine not to expect all plain sailing, for they will sooner or later find what I tell them to be true. I never advise anyone not to buy unless I think they do not really need one, and never would advise anyone to buy one of any other party that has one to sell that never could get a good hatch, although such cases have happened.

But after all is said and done, we cannot get along without the incubator. For the last four or five years broody hens, as a rule, have been very scarce in early spring, and not only that, they have been unreliable. Not only have I found it so, but lots of others all over the land; and it is these very things that have made one think of buying a machine. I don't blame them either, for what is more aggravating to anyone than to visit a hen sitting on some high priced eggs than to see her sitting standing up, or sitting on edge of nest, or having scratched the nest so you can't see the eggs, or has been taken sick and besmeared the eggs all over?

With the best of care these things will happen, and I have always noticed that these things happen in early spring when eggs will chill quickly, and you want to get your chicks out early. The hen and the machines both have their faults, and right here is what I will say of both: as much as I think of a good machine, and as much as I admire a good faithful broody hen, I wouldn't trust the

best machine or broody hen a-going—that is, without looking at them as often as I could get a chance, or if I am not at home have someone look at them to see if all was right. This is my way, and I find it a good one, too. I know of parties saying they never visit them to see how they are getting along, but I never could feel easy about them. I have run a number of makes of incubators, and never yet found one that did not need frequent visits, and have always bought the best selling incubators.

This spring I have been experimenting with a 60-egg Cyphers. I have run it three seasons in a good cellar, and in a good place, far better than one-half of them have to run an incubator in. The machine runs as well as one can expect one to run, but I always noticed the row of eggs on the end furthest from the lamp was lukewarm when the ones nearest the lamp was about right. The machine was set level by a good spirit level. In order to get the eggs anywhere near even in temperature,

I raised up the cool end, but I never succeeded until I run the thermometer up to 107°. I tested this thermometer with another one that was giving good hatches.

Now where is the trouble? One will say the thermometer; one, the machine wasn't level; but I proved both these things. I don't know, but I can suggest, and that is, all the outward vent I can find is one five-eighths inch hole in the bottom, and as the egg chamber is about 14 x 17 inches square, in order to get the warm air to circulate the lamp has got to force the heat to the furthest end, and the vent is on the lamp end. Whether I am right or not, it hatched better after running it at 107°, and raising the end. These things look unnatural, but anyhow, I am satisfied with my experience. And another thing, I believe the capacity is too small for circulation. I shall never buy so small a machine again. The more modern machines of this make have a three or three and one-half inch slide vent in bottom of machine, and I have put one on mine, and I am going to try it this way.

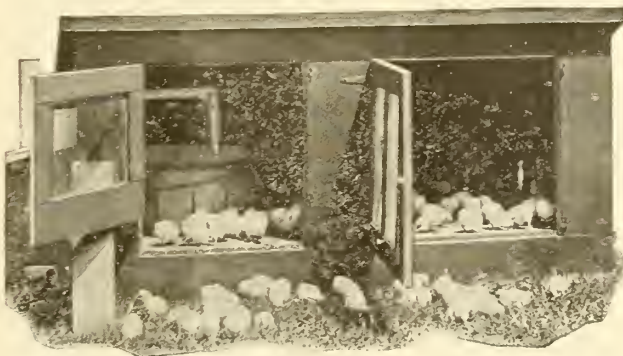
About the nursery under egg trays, I noticed the chicks were contented, would scatter around with their heads, just as they do in a brooder, both before I run with the thermometer 107°, and after. I never put thermometer under egg tray, as they were so contented.

I have often said, and expect to say so a great many times more, that no incubator will hatch as many chicks according as a good faithful hen, and I will say for the incubator, for getting out chicks up to May that it is what we must have, and is all right; but after that give me the old hen, and let her take care of them. Some will say I am wrong. I may be, but I have a right to my opinion with my experience.

Now what is the best incubator to buy? I don't know. You buy a machine that wants running, no matter what kind you buy. It is like a cook stove or anything else, you have got to learn how to run them. Again, every location is different; every make and every machine of a same make will not always work alike each and every season in the same place. They are a good deal like human beings, unreliable, changeable with the weather, cranky to others, and they don't see why we ought to be so with them; so do not expect too much of a kerosene lamp and a wooden box with a metal regulator put into it, and light it up and put in some good for nothing eggs, and then curse the machine for not keeping an even temperature. We can't keep ours at such a condition, so be easy on the machine, and be content with whatever we get out of it.

EDGAR E. MCINTOSH.

Hope Valley, R. I.



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We have just issued an advance *Special Brooder Circular* which tells all about it, and all the other New Prairie State Brooders we are going to offer the poultry people this year. It gives photographic illustrations of them—shows the inside and the outside construction and the plans of arrangements in detail. You ought to send for one of these circulars. You will be surprised at the many new and advantageous points these new brooders possess.

Here is the solution to the greatest problem the poultryman has had to contend with. We have spent years in solving it for you and all we ask is a careful consideration of our efforts. The evidence of the real merit of the New Prairie State Brooders is apparent in the machines.

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It may seem early to talk about Show Winners, but August and September are months that the early young birds must be gotten in line for the fall shows, and the old bird "trimmed" preparatory to exhibit. Well, then, as

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has to keep these things in mind and be ready for the call that always comes, so he calls the attention of those who may want to WIN to the fact that he has old and young to meet early competition, as well as those coming on for later exhibits. Just write your wants in

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## SHOWS TO OCCUR.

### Secretaries of Shows are Requested to Note Errors or Omissions, and Notify Us With Correction of Same.

The name of the city where a show is held printed in full faced type indicates that arrangements for publication of awards in this paper have been made.

#### To Secretaries of Poultry Associations:

We desire to have the list of poultry show dates published in this paper complete and correct in every particular. It is as much to your interest as to ours that it should be so. Copies of each issue in which the list appears will be sent to all secretaries of associations, and we urgently request secretaries to note any error or omission and furnish correction promptly. Especially do we request that in case of a change of dates or in case a projected show is abandoned notice be sent us promptly.

#### To Our Readers:

Readers of the paper who are members of associations, who may note errors in regard to shows in which they are interested are requested to have the correction furnished us by the secretary or other authorized officer of the association. We cannot make corrections on unofficial information.

#### To All Poultry Fanciers and Exhibitors:

Again, as in the last few years, FARM-POULTRY will publish lists of poultry awards in full for all associations complying with the reasonable and advantageous conditions we offer. Name of shows of associations accepting our proposition are printed in full faced type when notice to that effect is sent us. Persons interested in shows not thus marked, and desiring to have awards for same published in this paper should not write to us about the matter, but should bring it to the notice of their association. Our proposition is made to all alike, is fair and generous; it speaks for itself. We have neither time nor inclination to urge it on associations which are indifferent to it, or to follow up the matter with secretaries who fail to present it to their association.

## THIS IS OUR OFFER:

To every Show Association accepting the conditions stated below, we will give five (5) full year subscriptions to Farm-Poultry to be awarded as special premiums on poultry as the managers of the show may decide, and we will publish the poultry winnings at their show in full.

### THE CONDITIONS:

Lists of awards to be sent us promptly after the show on the blanks we provide for that purpose, and to have appended lists of names and addresses of the exhibitors not winning prizes.

Advertisement of FARM-POULTRY, the conspicuous feature of which is the simple statement that awards will be published in FARM-POULTRY, to be inserted in the premium list. Associations generally give our ad. a page or half-page in the premium list, according to size of page and space available, to be inserted in the premium list in good position and with good margin of white space all around it.

#### New England States.

- Nov. 21-24. **West Haven, Ct.** David Nichols and D. J. Lambert, Judges. E. J. Crawford, Sec'y.
- Nov. 22-25. **Holyoke, Mass.** Felch, Ballou, Shove, Pierce, and Crangle, Judges. Geo. Barnett, Jr., Sec'y.
- Nov. 30-Dec. 2. **Danbury, Ct.** Nichols, Drevenstedt, and Card, Judges. C. H. Brundage, Sec'y.
- Dec. 4-9. **Springfield, Mass.** E. S. Evans, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-6. **Easthampton, Mass.** D. J. Lambert, Judge. W. B. Drury, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-8. **Portland, Me.** A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass.; N. C. Smith, Waltham, Mass.; W. B. Atterton, Boston, Mass.; Geo. P. Coffin, Freeport, Me., Judges. A. L. Merrill, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-8. **Leominster, Mass.** W. B. Atterton, Randolph; D. P. Shove, Fall River; A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster; and J. H. Woodward, Judges. L. D. Mudgett, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-9. **Providence, R.I.** W. J. Brown, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-8. **Adams, Mass.** D. J. Lambert, Judge. A. W. Safford, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-14. **Milford, Mass.** J. P. Remick, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-14. **Falmouth, Mass.** I. K. Felch, Judge. R. E. Small, Sec'y.
- Dec. 18-23. **Concord, N.H.** H. C. Shaw, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-21. **Woolsocket, R.I.** E. W. Cook, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-22. **Winsted, Ct.** Score Card Exhibit. W. R. Graves, Springfield; Halstead Scudder, Glen Head; R. J. W. Card, Bristol, Conn., Judges. L. C. Capwell, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-23. **N. H. State P. Ass'n.** Concord, N. H. H. C. Shaw, Milford, N. H., Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-29. **Meriden, Ct.** J. H. Drevenstedt, Judge. W. H. Baldwin, Sec'y.
- Dec. 29-Jan. 1. **Wallingford, Conn.** David A. Nichols, Shelton; Wm. H. Card, Bristol, Judges. Wm. J. Hogan, Sec'y.
- Jan. 3-6. **Beverly, Mass.** Arthur Elliott, Peabody, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-12. **Middletown, Ct.** W. J. Keitt, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-12. **Peterboro, N.H.** F. G. Field, Sec'y.
- Jan. 16-19. **Dalton, Mass.** I. K. Felch, Natick, Judge. W. H. Griswold, Sec'y.
- Jan. 23-26. **North Adams, Mass.** I. K. Felch, Judge. W. G. Carter, Sec'y.
- Jan. 24-26. **Pittsfield, Mass.** R. T. Kent, Sec'y.

#### Middle States.

- Aug. 29-Sept. 1. **Ballston Lake, N. Y.** N. V. Witbeck, Sec'y.
- Sept. 4-7. **Johnstown, N. Y.** Drevenstedt and Zimmerman, Judges.
- Sept. 5-8. **Brookville, Pa.** H. A. Emmel, Judge. F. B. Henderson, Sec'y.
- Sept. 5-9. **Cambridge, N. Y.** Andrew Riddell, Sec'y.
- Sept. 11-16. **Syracuse, N. Y.** S. C. Shaver, Sec'y.
- Sept. 12-15. **Greene, N. Y.** C. Winston, Sec'y.
- Sept. 19-22. **Allentown, Pa.** Harry Schall, Sec'y.
- Sept. 26-29. **Poughkeepsie, N. Y.** Zimmerman and Drevenstedt, Judges. J. M. Booth, Sec'y.
- Nov. 20-25. **Gloversville, N. Y.** Stanton, Zimmerman, and Drevenstedt, Judges. Jacob H. Blunck, Johnstown, N. Y., Sec'y.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 2. **Dover, N.J.** W. H. Bidgood, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-8. **Walden, N. Y.** J. H. Drevenstedt, Judge. H. W. Millsap, Sec'y.

- Dec. 5-9. **Wilkesbarre, Pa.** D. T. Miller, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-9. **Paterson, N. J.** W. J. Stanton, Fred Huyler, Judges. Jas. Handford, Sec'y.
- Dec. 13-15. **Kingston, N. Y.** J. H. Drevenstedt, Judge. F. E. Miller, Sec'y.
- Dec. 13-16. **Blandon, Pa.** W. Theo. Wittman, and H. A. Litzenger, Judges. E. G. Wilkinson, Sec'y.
- Dec. 14-16. **Rutherford, N. J.** E. J. Irwin, Sec'y.
- Dec. 18-23. **Hazleton, Pa.** J. E. Anderson, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-23. **Mohinsville, Pa.** J. H. Fichthorn, Sec'y.
- Dec. 27-30. **East Greenville, Pa.** Theo. Wittman, Judge. C. A. Mack, Sec'y.
- Jan. 2-6. **New York, N. Y.** H. V. Crawford, Montclair, N. J., Sec'y.
- Jan. 3-6. **Point Marion, Pa.** H. C. Davis, Sec'y.
- Jan. 18-22. **Auburn, N. Y.** W. J. Stanton, H. J. Quinlot, Geo. W. Leach, Andrew Riddell, L. M. Hallenbeck, and Clarence W. King, Judges. J. H. Scott, Sec'y.
- Jan. 22-25. **Salamanca, N. Y.** C. H. Miller, Jr., Sec'y.
- Feb. 19-24. **Pittsburgh, Pa.** McClave, Butterfield, and Brown, Judges. G. C. Sutch, Sec'y.

#### Southern States.

- Oct. 10-13. **Hagerstown, Md.** J. Frank Spohr, Sup't.
- Oct. 17-21. **Atlanta, Ga.** J. H. Drevenstedt, Judge. Frank Weldon, Sec'y.
- Nov. 23-25. **Warsaw, Ky.** O. A. Bogardus, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-13. **Charleston, S. C.** J. McArthur, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-15. **Birmingham, Ala.** Chas. Barber, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-15. **Monroe, N. C.** Marshall, Judge. T. F. Dillon, Sec'y.
- Dec. 20-22. **Clarksburg, W. Va.** T. E. Orr, Judge. W. H. Lewis, Sec'y.
- Jan. 1-6. **Nashville, Tenn.** John A. Murkin, Jr., Sec'y.
- Jan. 8-12. **Augusta, Ga.** J. W. Killingsworth, Sec'y.
- Jan. 16-20. **Charlotte, N. C.** H. B. Schwab, Judge. W. B. Alexander, Sec'y.

#### Near West States.

- Sept. 5-8. **Northeastern Industrial Fair, Flint, Mich.** E. G. Rust, Sec'y.
- Sept. 11-15. **Indianapolis, Ind.** Chas. Downing, Sec'y.
- Nov. 20-22. **Newton Falls, Ohio.** Ira C. Keller, Judge. C. H. Herner, Sec'y-treas.
- Nov. 23-25. **Warsaw, Ill.** W. S. Russell, Judge. Paul Heise, Sec'y.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 5. **Delta, Ohio.** Ira C. Keller, Judge. M. B. Hutton, Sec'y.
- Dec. 5-9. **Youngstown, O.** T. E. Orr, Judge. C. E. Watwood, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-8. **Owasso, Mich.** Jas. Tucker, Judge. Bert Lovett, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-16. **Dwight, Ill.** Ben. Meyers, Judge. H. A. Wood, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-16. **Oconomowoc, Wis.** Frank Heck, Judge. Dr. H. J. Larson, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-16. **Sebring, Ohio.** Ira C. Keller, Judge. M. J. Stevens, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-16. **Fort Wayne, Ind.** T. E. Orr, Judge. P. A. Heller, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-15. **Quincy, Mich.** A. L. Massey, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-15. **Flint, Mich.** F. P. Wildman, Sec'y.
- Dec. 18-23. **Sullivan, Ind.** H. E. Speake, Sec'y.
- Dec. 18-23. **Haubstadt, Ind.** D. T. MacClement, Evansville, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-23. **Catin, Ill.** C. F. Byerly, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-30. **Lansing, Mich.** F. W. Travis, Judge. J. A. Turner, Sec'y.

- Dec. 26-31. **Oregon, Ill.** W. C. Pierce, Judge. L. H. Valentine, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-31. **Ravena, Ohio.** Ben Meyers, Judge. Harry Beck, Sec'y.
- Dec. 27-29. **Maricetta, Ohio.** H. A. Emmel, Mars, Pa., Judge. A. I. Spencer, Parkersburg, Sec'y.
- Dec. 27-29. **East Palestine, Ohio.** C. F. Early, and Phil Feil, Judges. Wm. Haught, Sec'y.
- Jan. 1-6. **Hamilton, Ohio.** I. K. Felch, Judge. A. W. C. Hoffman, Sec'y.
- Jan. 1-6. **Eaton, Ill.** Theo. Hewes, Judge. O. H. Smith, Sec'y.
- Jan. 1-6. **Peoria, Ill.** Frank Heck, W. S. Russell, Theo. Hewes, Judges. C. L. McCord, Danville, Ill., Sec'y.
- Jan. 1-6. **Elgin, Ill.** Chas. McClave, London, Ont., Judge. M. E. Meredith, Sec'y.
- Jan. 3-6. **Cambridge, O.** D. J. Lambert, Judge. Jas. C. Sarchet, Sec'y.
- Jan. 5-6. **Zion City, Ill.** C. L. Greer, Sec'y.
- Jan. 8-12. **Ann Arbor, Mich.** Theo. Hewes, and Jas. Tucker, Judges. Geo. R. Cooper, Sec'y.
- Jan. 8-13. **Evansville, Ind.** W. C. Pierce, Indianapolis; R. H. Young, Louisville, Ky., Judges. H. J. Reimer, 107 Heinlein Ave., Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-13. **Naperville, Ill.** D. J. Lambert, Judge. E. M. Schwartz, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-13. **Lake Geneva, Wis.** Frank Heck, Judge. F. M. Higgins, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-13. **Findlay, Ohio.** Phil Feil, Judge. Clark Parker, Sec'y.
- Jan. 10-13. **Newcomerstown, Ohio.** Theo. Hewes, Judge. F. D. Mulvaney, Sec'y.
- Jan. 10-13. **Tiffin, Ohio.** Chas. McClave, Judge. V. Crabtree, Sec'y.
- Jan. 15-20. **Portland, Ind.** S. B. Lane, Judge. Chas. McFarland, Sec'y.
- Jan. 15-20. **Oshkosh, Wis.** Chas. McClave, Judge. Frank W. Radford, Sec'y.
- Jan. 15-20. **Delavan, Wis.** Jas. A. Tucker and S. B. Johnston, Judges. W. E. Peffer, Sec'y.
- Jan. 15-20. **Rockford, Ill.** Frank Heck, Judge. Chas. M. Gilbert, Sec'y.
- Jan. 16-20. **Cincinnati, Ohio.** Thos. J. Foy, Sec'y.
- Jan. 22-25. **LaCrosse, Wis.** Theo. Hewes, Judge. H. J. Hahn, Sec'y.
- Jan. 22-28. **Milwaukee, Wis.** C. G. Loeber, Sec'y.
- Jan. 23-29. **Mooreville, Ind.** Chas. McClave, Judge. C. L. Hallan, Sec'y.
- Jan. 29-Feb. 3. **Cleveland, O.** W. R. Hinz, care of First Nat'l Bank, Sec'y.
- Jan. 31-Feb. 3. **Hudson, Mich.** Jas. A. Tucker, J. W. Mullinix, H. A. Boies, Judges. L. S. Brown, Sec'y.
- Jan. 31-Feb. 5. **Toledo, O.** Chas. McClave, Theo. Hewes, Ben Meyers, F. C. Shepard, W. E. Standfield, and J. W. Mullinix, Judges. Alva T. Baker, Sec'y.
- Feb. 4-10. **Indianapolis, Ind.** Jas. A. Tucker, Geo. Burgett, Ben Meyers, C. L. McCord, S. B. Lane, Wesley Leinus, W. C. Pierce, and Theo. Hewes, Judges. E. A. Pierce, Sec'y.

#### Central West States.

- Nov. 21-24. **Muscatine, Iowa.** Ben. S. Meyers, Judge. F. M. Ziegler, Sec'y.
- Nov. 22-25. **Carthage, Mo.** C. H. Rhodes, Judge. C. A. Emery, Sec'y.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1. **Central Mo. P. Ass'n** at Boonville, Mo. D. T. Heinlich, Judge. Chas. G. Miller, Sec'y.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 2. **Great Bend, Kans.** T. W. Southard, Judge. Rev. S. Olinger, Sec'y.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 2. **Mason City, Iowa.** W. S. Russell, Ottumwa, Iowa, Judge. M. V. Bickel, Sec'y.
- Dec. 4-8. **Marshalltown, Iowa.** Theo. Hewes, Judge. H. C. Hansen, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-9. **Stewartsville, Minn.** Geo. Holden, Judge. L. G. Tubbs, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-9. **Webb City, Mo.** C. A. Emery, Judge. C. Baker, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-15. **Davenport, Iowa.** Jas. A. Tucker, Judge. J. P. Voss, Sec'y.
- Dec. 11-16. **Rochester, Minn.** Geo. Holden, Judge. L. E. Nietz, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-16. **Waverly, Iowa.** B. L. Burbank, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-16. **Fayette, Mo.** Theo. Hewes, C. Rhodes, and C. A. Emery, Judges. H. P. Mason, Sec'y.
- Dec. 13-16. **Corsicana, Tex.** H. B. Savage, Judge. C. E. Papsworth, Sec'y.
- Dec. 15-23. **Columbus, Neb.** C. H. Rhodes, Judge. W. H. Swartsley, Sec'y.
- Dec. 25-30. **Mankato, Minn.** Holden, Judge. J. W. Kallmann, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-29. **Fremont, Neb.** J. L. Todd, Atlantic, Iowa, Judge. W. H. Haven, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-30. **Gallatin, Mo.** F. M. Parker, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-30. **Beatrice, Nebr.** H. C. White, Sec'y.
- Dec. 26-30. **Duluth, Minn.** Theo. Hewes, Judge. H. E. Edmunds, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-13. **Enid, Okla.** J. W. Hitchcock, Judge. I. W. Scherich, Sec'y.
- Jan. 9-14. **Dallas, Tex.** Brown, Kuebel, and Purdy, Judges.
- Jan. 16-20. **Sioux Falls, S. D.** D. Holden, Judge. Stacy S. Metcalf, Sec'y.

#### Far West States.

- Oct. 3-4. **North Yakima, Wash.** Harry Collier, Supt. Theo. Hewes, Judge.
- Oct. 6-12. **Portland, Ore.** Elmer Dixon, Supt.
- Nov. 27-Dec. 2. **San Francisco, Cal.** Geo. D. Holden, T. E. Orr, Geo. H. Burgett, Henry Berrar, Judges. J. C. Williams, 25 New Montgomery St., Sec'y.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 2. **Corvallis, Ore.** Rob. Johnson, Sec'y.
- Dec. 6-9. **Alameda, Calif.** C. G. Hinds and Elmer Dixon, Judges. C. A. Tracy, Sec'y.
- Dec. 12-15. **Salem, Ore.** F. A. Welch, Sec'y.
- Dec. 13-16. **Fresno, Calif.** Geo. Andrews, Sec'y.
- Dec. 13-16. **San Diego, Calif.** Herbert M. Stiles, S'y.
- Dec. 19-22. **Albany, Ore.** Cland W. Vank, Sec'y.
- Dec. 19-23. **Seattle, Wash.** Chas. McAllister, Sec'y.
- Dec. 27-Jan. 1. **Tacoma, Wash.** Mrs. C. A. Pratt, Sec'y.
- Jan. 8-15. **Los Angeles, Calif.** Mrs. O. H. Burbridge, Sec'y.
- Feb. 5-10. **Walla Walla, Wash.** Chas. McClave, Judge. J. A. Levy, Sec'y.

#### Canada.

- Sept. 2-9. **Toronto, Can.** A. W. Bell, Supt.
- Oct. 16-21. **Montreal, Can.** J. P. Cullen, 214 St. James St., Sec'y.
- Nov. 20-23. **Seaforth, Ont.** J. A. Daly, Sec'y.

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## The Editor's Question Box.

In this department the editor will answer miscellaneous questions on poultry topics, and all special requests for his personal views which can be answered briefly. Inquiries will be answered as promptly as possible and as nearly as may be in the order in which they are received.

**Origin of Buff Leghorns.** (T. M. T.)—What is the origin of the Single Comb Buff Leghorn, and also of the Rose Comb Buff Leghorn?

Though the Single Comb Buff Leghorn is a breed of very recent origin, nothing definite and authentic seems to be known about how they were made. One of the best authorities in England stated shortly after the Buff Leghorn appeared that they seemed to be made by crossing Leghorns and Buff Cochins, but it is probable that he was mistaken in this, for the Buff Leghorns from their first appearance in this country have been non-sitters, and if they had Buff Cochins blood in them there would probably have been a good many that inherited the incubating instinct. It is more probable that Buff Leghorns are, as some of the first breeders have said, of purely Leghorn origin, or perhaps the buff colored birds from mixed Italian stock which seems to be imported in large quantities into Denmark, from which country the first specimens are said to have come. Rose Comb Buff Leghorns were made in this country, and Mr. Geo. S. Barnes, of Battle Creek, Mich., was, and still is, the most prominent of the breeders of this variety.

**Letting Chicks Run in Wet Grass.** (J. L.)—"What about letting little chicks of two weeks old and over to get wet in the dew or rain? I have not found anything in your book or paper on the subject. Most writers and even the country people caution against it. In the natural state they do get wet. This year I have raised over two hundred on free range without fences, and have let them run. I cannot confidently trace the loss of a single chick worth saving to the rain and dew except those literally drowned."

I said nothing in "Poultry-Craft," and have said nothing in the paper, except a few times when asked a question, about letting little chicks run in wet grass, because this is one of very many points on which a great many people go wrong, that it does not seem to me necessary to introduce into a statement of how to take care of chicks. There are so many matters of this kind that might be discussed that if we introduce them all it makes an article interminable. So it has always seemed to me that the best way was to wait until someone asked a question, and then answer it. If the chicks are strong and healthy, and if they have a dry place to go to, and the hen is confined to the coop so that she cannot get wet, it will do no harm to let them run in wet grass as much as they want to. But if the coop is wet and the hen is allowed to get wet so that chicks when they go to her do not get dried off, it will be very likely to hurt some of them, and if the weather is cold and wet it may ruin the entire lot. That is one reason why I always advise keeping the hen up, at least while the chicks are small. With regard to letting your chicks run in the rain, the condition is practically the same. If they have a dry place to go to so that they can keep dry, they may be allowed to do as they please. The chick that is injured by the rain is the one that has no chance to get out of it.

**To Exterminate Minks.** (J. L.)—"A mink has been paying me some visits. As I am not anxious to furnish him free board, and as dogs and steel traps and night watching have failed to catch him, I write to you for the accumulated wisdom of poultrymen on the subject of mink catching and killing. I think it is not safe to be sure that I have him shut out for the present without depriving the chickens of air. He got over thirty the very first night. That ought to do for awhile, but he came back and got some more before I could fix things."

Have had no experience myself in dealing with minks, and do not now recall anything special that has been written about them; so you will have to call on readers of the paper

who have had experience with this particular kind of vermin to tell us how they succeeded in disposing of them.

**Mysterious Deaths.** (C. L. J.)—"I have a fine flock of April and May Barred Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn chickens. The former are all hen hatched and raised; the latter are incubator bred. About a week ago I noticed one of the Plymouth Rocks standing around while the others were being fed seemingly indifferent to all about her. When I tried to pick her up she ran, or rather waddled a few steps from me, and then easily gave up the struggle and allowed me to capture her. She lay rigid in my hand, apparently lifeless. When I put her down she did not make an effort to run off. Yesterday she died, water coming from her mouth and nostrils. This morning I noticed some six or more commencing to act in the same way. Everything has been done for the comfort and health of these chicks. Plenty of room, clean whitewashed house for them to roost in, abundance of pure water, wholesome food, and an entire absence of lice. If you can prescribe a remedy for this disease you will not only save a large percentage of my flock, but doubtless render a service to your many readers."

The only clue I have as to the nature and cause of the trouble (apart from the description of symptoms which is but a partial help to a good guess) is in the statement that "everything has been done for the comfort and health of these chicks." That statement too often means that in trying to do "everything, etc.," the keeper of the chicks has gone too far and killed them with kindness. The way in which this is most often done at this season of the year is by keeping chicks shut up too close, not giving them air enough. The symptoms in this case are like those found when chicks are used up by sweating and overcrowding at night. Mr. L. says they have plenty of room. I don't know whether they have or not; but no matter how much room they can have the use of, if for any reason they huddle together and do not use enough room, they suffer as they would if cramped for room. In a large building not well ventilated the conditions do not as quickly become dangerous as in a small building, but, especially in muggy hot nights when the air scarcely moves at all, chicks shut up close get overheated, chill, crowd together, and some are ruined. I only suggest this as the most common cause of symptoms described when occurring at this season of the year.

**Twine Poultry Netting.** (C. D.)—"Where can I purchase twine poultry netting found in much use in England?"

On a visit to the plant of Mr. A. C. Hawkins at Lancaster, Mass., a few years ago, I noticed that the partitions between the pens in some of his houses were of twine netting. He said he got it from some dealer in twine nettings for fishing and other purposes in Boston. As I recall it he also said that it was cheaper than wire netting, though the reason for using it in his case was that the fowls would not injure their combs by dashing against it. For permanent outdoor fences, it would not be as durable as galvanized wire netting, nor would it be likely to prove as satisfactory in any place where it stood a chance of being damaged. For temporary fences it occurred to me a short time ago it might be more satisfactory than wire, and when I have occasion to buy more fencing I intend to try some.

**Stunted Chicks.** (W. D. C.)—"I have had what seems to me a very peculiar trouble break out among a lot of chickens hatched May 1st in an incubator. Have consulted 'Farm-Poultry Doctor' and several other works I have treating on diseases of chickens, and can find nothing like it. I shall describe the conditions under which fowls have been raised, and should be pleased to have your advice. I do not know what to do for them. The chickens in question were hatched May 1st; they were for a time overcrowded, and

the coops I had them in were poorly ventilated. They were compelled to stand that treatment for several weeks, but since then have had dry airy quarters, grass run towards evening, when they are let out of a yard 30 x 80. They were fed Cyphers chick food until seven weeks old, then cracked corn principally, with some wheat, beef scrap several times a week; charcoal, grit, and pure water, watering three times a day.

"They eat well, but some are not well feathered. I thought possibly I had been feeding too much corn. I have taken seven from flock of about sixty, placing them in well ventilated coop with straw on floor; as yet, being very busy, I have not fixed up roosts in their pens. A spot similar to a wart appears on one of their toes, and in a short time the toes become a dark color and fall off. Several of the chicks have their toes eaten completely off, and on others it is working. In fact, only noticed it several days ago. It seems to be contagious, as I notice several new cases, birds with the spots just forming. The spot looks either like a wart or a decay speck. The toe falls off, often looking as though it had been chewed, but that is not the case; birds eat well, and seem all right every other way. I have tried to give you as much information as to their condition, feed, etc., hoping it will offer some clue to you."

"I am enclosing stamp, and should like very much to have you tell me what to do, as I am just making a start in the business for a living, and hate, nor can well afford, to lose such nice birds, or run the risk of doing so. None have died as yet."

"I am a young fellow, and have raised poultry for years, but always used the hen for hatching until this year. Chickens hatched later are doing fine."

Such cases as this should be investigated by a qualified examiner. The trouble may be of a tuberculous character, and it is desirable that its exact nature should be ascertained. Whatever the nature of the trouble we may reasonably suppose that it had its origin in those first few weeks when the chickens were overcrowded in badly ventilated coops. It is just such conditions that develop disease, and no amount of good care afterwards will compensate for the bad start. The life of a chicken is so short that, as a general rule, there is no time in it to outgrow the effects of such setbacks.

**Crooked Toes and Meat.** (W. H. S.)—"I have 40 White Plymouth rock chickens this spring hatch, which weigh from 1 to 5½ lbs. I have been feeding cracked corn and whole wheat for their feed, and they seem to be doing nicely; beside I have been keeping ground meat which I buy by the 100 lb. bag at our feed mill, which I keep in boxes in their yards which they have access to at all times. Some of the chickens when they weigh from 4 to 5½ lbs., their inside toes seem to turn in, and their outside toes seem to turn out, instead of being straight, and one of them had the middle toe turned sideways too. They also have a grass run. Now what I would like to ask you is, would they eat more of the ground meat or scraps than they ought to by having it in front of them all the time? and do you think by having the meat in front of them all the time it would have any effect on the cords or muscles of their feet? I have never had any chickens that way before, and have never fed meat to my young chickens before until this spring."

I don't think the meat would cause the trouble described unless the fowls were fed so short

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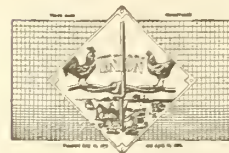
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on grain that they ate a great deal of meat. Even then I think the meat would scour the chicks and make them sick in other ways before it would give any such results as described. Sometimes crooked toes are hereditary, and if the toe is simply turned sideways and not otherwise twisted, I would think this the most probable explanation.

**Egg Bound Hen.** (Mrs. J. F. M.)—"What was the trouble with a hen that early in May would go to the nest to lay, stay her usual time, get out and cackle as if she had laid, but never an egg did she lay all season up to July 25? I then concluded to put her in the pot. When dressing her found in her one egg full size and two in proportion. The full sized egg had not a hard shell, but was soft, and the color of beef liver. The others were a bit lighter in color. I cut the larger one open and found it like liver, solid matter all through and her hind part was like a bag and full of water."

Mrs. M. has told in the above statement what was the matter with the hen. What caused this trouble,—how it came to develop as it did, no one could say. The reproductive system evidently was out of order somewhere, but whether these eggs were abnormal from the start, or changed during the several months which it appears they were retained in the oviduct, could only be determined by an expert examination, and perhaps not then. Such cases as this may occur in any flock, and have no particular significance. The only way we can guard against them is by keeping hens in good condition—which is a general not a special preventive measure.

**To Prevent Chicken Stealing.** (C. C. M.)—"I am trying to run an egg farm, and am raising S. C. White Leghorns. I have had so many stolen that I will have to devise some way to prevent it or else quit raising. What do you think is the best way to keep my chickens from being stolen?"

When I lived where there were very special risks of chickens and other things being stolen I kept a few good bull dogs. My premises were enclosed, and gates inside were so arranged that the dogs had a full circuit of the place, and no one could get to a poultry house, or indeed any building on the place without giving an account of himself to the dogs. A dog is generally a sure preventive against thieves he does not know. Often the thief is someone who is on good terms with the dogs. Unless a man was positively beyond suspicion, I never allowed him to make friends with one of my dogs, though he might work for me for days or weeks. The dogs I raised and trained myself would not allow one outside of the family to touch anything on the place unless some one in authority was at hand. For farm premises or town premises where a dog can be used, I think a good dog the best insurance against chicken thieves. But a dog that is sure to protect his master's property is generally a dog that cannot be allowed full liberty, because even if he is harmless when not molested he may do serious injury to a person who thoughtlessly or unintentionally annoys him when off his master's premises. So I would not keep a watch dog in a town unless I could keep him confined to the premises he is to protect. In towns or districts where chicken stealing prevails the only effective prevention seems to be to catch the thief. Generally it is one man or a small combination that is responsible for the thefts of poultry in any district, and when he has been apprehended and put out of business the trouble ceases. If it is a case of this kind that bothers Mr. M., I would suggest that he with other sufferers systematically go to work to get the thief either in connection with the proper officers or independent of them.

**Raising Late Chicks for Broilers.** (C. C. M.)—"Do you think it will pay me to raise as many chickens as I can and sell them for broilers,—that is what I don't need to stock my laying houses? I have raised enough this season to have pullets enough to stock my houses."

As a rule there is no money in late broilers, and Mr. M.'s stock being White Leghorns, unless they are more suitable for broilers than average Leghorns, I doubt whether he could make late broilers from them pay their cost.

**Is It "Crop Bound" or Something Else?**—(L. F.)—"My White Leghorn hens are subject to an ailment from which I have lost two valuable hens, and a third one is now sick. The symptoms are,—much distress, loss of control of the body and head, twitching and fluttering of the wings. They fall over in spasmodic fits and appear as partially blind, blinking their eyes and stretching their heads from side to side. Amateur poultry people here say it is called "blind staggers," but give no special reason. From information I have through poultry literature should say they may be crop bound. How can I cure this bird? An operation is out of the question, as I am too nervous."

I don't think these hens were crop bound. The symptoms are more like apoplexy. If I knew the age and condition of the hens, how they are housed, yarded and fed, and what were the weather and temperature conditions at the time of the attacks, I could judge better about that; but even on the information given above it looks more like an apoplectic attack than anything else. In such cases it is not much use to doctor the bird that is sick. If cured it is liable to other attacks, and is not likely to be of much further use. Such a bird should not be bred from. Its value is only its value as a layer. Attention should be given to improving conditions, diet, etc., for the flock, to prevent other cases. When fowls are crop bound the fact is easily determined by the condition of the crop. There is some convulsive movement of the head and body, and sometimes such fits as are described by Mr. F., but in general the crop bound fowl is dull, listless, with the distention of the crop the prominent symptom.

**Shall She Change Mash?** (J. C. M.)—"I have always made my mash as follows: two parts wheat (bran?), two parts corn meal, one part ground oats, one part middlings, Pratt's food one day, and beef scraps the next, 1 part. Would you advise me to change it to the No. 1 mash? I have always had good results with my mash for fowls. For my chicks after two months old, I make the mash the same, only I sift the hulls out of the ground oats, and add one-fourth bread crumbs, feeding twice a day; the rest of the time I feed them cracked corn, wheat, and millet. Before two months of age I feed the Wyandotte chick food, bread crumbs, and coarse oat meal. I have fed that way for thirteen years, and have had good results."

I put bran in parenthesis in Mrs. M.'s statement with question mark, because she wrote simply wheat, and it is natural to assume that she meant to say wheat bran, though occasionally I find people putting whole grains in the mash. On general principles I would not advise anyone to change a mash or a ration that was giving satisfaction unless it became necessary to do so—as from inability to get an article used in it of the desired quality, or at the right price—or it appeared that a change would be in some way beneficial. In this case I see no occasion for change. There is a little less bran in the mash Mrs. M. uses, and with the larger proportion of meal, oats, and middlings it is a richer mash. It would not be as good a mash to give a novice in feeding as the No. 1 mash in the first lesson, but for one who has experience in feeding it is, on the whole, just as good a mash, and under some conditions is better.

### How His Chickens Escape "Sore Head."

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—I saw an article in June 15th F.-P. on sore head. We have it with us now as bad as I ever saw it. That is, some of my neighbors have.

I have not had it since I isolated my chickens from the stables, dog kennel, and public highway.

I think it is caused by the common itch mite, the same that infests cattle, horses, dogs, sheep, and even gets on the children's bare feet, and is known as ground itch.

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**WHITE WYANDOTTES,**  
**BARRED ROCKS,**  
**BLACK MINORCAS,**  
**LIGHT BRAHMAS,**

About 2,000 Laying Bred Stock for sale. Cockerels \$2 and up. Mated Pens \$10 and up.

## Greatest Prize Winning Strain in America

Old and young stock in pink of show condition now ready. Breeding, Exhibiting and Conditioning have been a business with us for **eighteen years**, during which time our winnings have been unapproached at the largest shows.

Our Patrons, the country over, have won for years on stock of our breeding.

1200 and over Beauties growing under most favorable conditions to win the coveted Blue Ribbon at this Season's Exhibits.

28 page illustrated descriptive booklet, free to readers of this paper. Write today.

**ELM POULTRY YARDS,**

**Box R, HARTFORD, CONN.**  
Estab. 1888.

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### BANTAMS.

**LIGHT BRAHMA BANTAMS**, World's fair winners; silver cup for best display. Winners always. D. Lincoln Orr, Box 2, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

**SEABRIGHTS**, Golden and Silver, Black, Buff and Partridge Cochins bantams; 600 youngsters cheap. Clyde Proper, Scholastic, N. Y.

### BREEDING STOCK.

**ALL BREDS** of live pure bred poultry, pigeons, pheasants, turkeys, rabbits, Belgian hares, cavies, dogs, cats, and all pet stock. A complete list in our large 162-page catalogue.

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., Dept. C. 26 and 28 Vesey St., New York City.

**BUFFINGTON** will sell some of his breeding stock cheap. Buff, White and Partridge Plymouth Rocks; Buff Leghorns, Buff and Silver Pencilled Wyandottes. Also have ready for the fall fairs Buff, Black, White and Partridge Cochins Bantams. Rowland C. Buffington, Box 677, Fall River, Mass.

### CHARCOAL.

**CHARCOAL** is a blood purifier for poultry. We prepare especially for this purpose in the proper size for all poultry, at \$2 per 100 lbs., freight paid.

E. Columbia Ave. and Beach St., Phila., Pa.

**CHARCOAL** at wholesale and retail.

W. P. Potter, 157 Plainfield St., Prov., R. I.

"Everything for the poultry keeper."

**CHARCOAL**, Medium fine or granulated \$1.75 per bbl. Freight allowed.

Hollis, Park & Pollard Co., Canal St., Boston.

### DOGS.

**PIT** Game fowls, Pit Bull Terrier and Boston Terrier dogs. J. P. Colby, Newburyport, Mass.

**SCOTCH COLLIE** puppies from two to six months old, fully pedigreed and very intelligent. Crystal Poultry Farm, R. F. D., Bridgeville, N. J.

### DUCKS.

**IMPERIAL PERKIN DUCKS**—large vigorous and prolific. Yearling breeders one dollar each. Special price on pens.

New Castle Poultry Plant, New Castle, Del.

### EXCHANGE.

**HIGH** class pure bred pedigreed English Fox Terriers, females six months old for White Pekin ducks. Nevada Fox Terrier Kennels, Nevada, Mo.

### FAVEROLLES.

**FAVEROLLES**. The king of utility fowls, winter layers; grow more rapidly than any other fowl known. Reach broiler size when eight weeks old. I have the best strains of all varieties of Faverolles imported direct from Europe by myself. English Salmon Faverolles, French Salmon Faverolles, Ermine, Black, Red, Spangled, and Blue Faverolles. Eggs for hatching, best pens \$6 for 15 eggs; other good pens \$3 for 15. Poor hatches replaced at half price. Descriptive circular for stamp. See my winnings at world's fair etc.

Dr. Phelps, Glens Falls, N. Y.

### FEEDING POULTRY.

**NEW METHOD** Dry Feeding (revised). Directions 25c.

Dr. Nottage, Goshen, Mass.

### INCUBATORS AND BROODERS.

**NEW** 175 chick brooder cheap.

Chas. Fezler, Patchogue, New York.

### INDIAN GAMES.

**OUR** Cornish Indian Game cockerels weigh 5 lbs.

at 3 months; \$2 either sex for sale.

Geo. T. McNeil, Theresa, N. Y.

### JAVAS.

**BLACK JAVAS**—choicest combination of standard and utility stock. Hens with score card, and April hatched cockerels for sale. Write for prices.

G. M. Mathews, Brocton, N. Y.

### LAKENVELDERS.

**LAKENVELDERS**. I purchased in 1904 the entire flock of international winners, owned by the Countess of Craven. These birds are famous in Europe as well as America, and have won more prizes and produced more prize winners than any flock of Lakenvelders in existence. Eggs for hatching from this strain \$10 for 15 eggs. Lakenvelders' eggs from other strains, \$6 for 15. Poor hatches replaced at half price. See my winnings at world's fair, Herald Sq., Madison Sq., etc. Descriptive circular for stamp.

Dr. Phelps, Glens Falls, N. Y.

### LEGHORNS.

**SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS** exclusively. Thoroughbred stock. Van Winkle's Glen Rock Poultry Yards, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

**400 FIRST** class S. C. White Leghorn hens for sale; are heavy layers and fine breeders; also some fine cock birds and cockerels. Write at once.

C. A. Stevens & Co., Wilsoy, N. Y.

**TO MAKE** room for young birds we offer 2,000 S. C. W. Leghorn yearling hens. These birds were our breeders this last spring, and were selected from 5,000 pullets last year. Also 2,000 April and May hatched pullets. Write us your wants at once. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Forest Lakes Poultry Co., Brown's Mills in the Pines, New Jersey.

**200 S. C. W. LEGHORN** yearling hens for sale. Fine stock, bred for egg production.

\$1 each. Minisink Farm Co., East Stroudsburg, Pa.

**SEVERAL** White Leghorn cockerels, pure bred stock. John Dunk, R. F. D. No. 3, Oswego, N. Y.

**COMMERCIAL POULTRY YARDS**. Must sell a few more of these S. C. White Leghorns to make room for 1000 young stock. Bargains while they last. Also taking orders for pullets and cockerels. "Mason's Leghorns are the large ones." Great layers, have grass runs, and are never sick; returnable at my expense if unsatisfactory; that's fair. Circular.

Frank R. Mason, Arcadia, N. Y.

**SINGLE** Comb White Leghorn pullets 75c. each per 6. Fairland Farm, Bridgewater, Vermont.

### MINORCAS.

**BLACK** Minorcas. Choice stock always. Eggs \$2 1/2. R. Story, 187 Arlington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

**1000** Minorcas, best quality, 25c per egg. Geo. H. Northrup, R. F. D. 2, Raceville, N. Y.

**ABOUT** Sept. 1st, will have a large number of carefully selected Black Minorca cockerels and pullets. Pairs and trios. Splendid stock that will please and satisfy. Perry Messinger, Sodas, N. Y.

### ORPINGTONS.

**ORPINGTONS, BUFF, BLACK, WHITE.** Why not have the very best obtainable? First cost may be a little more, but you get the stock and blood from the grandest winning strain in America, and from the latest Orpington breeder. Send for forty page illustrated Orpington catalogue, also mailing list describing thirty-two breeding yards and prices of eggs. The blood from the largest winner at New York the past three years is in these yards.

Box 59, Willow Brook Farm, Berlin, Conn.

**FOR THE BEST ORPINGTONS**, any of the ten varieties, you must send to their originators, who naturally have the best. Illustrated catalogue 10c. to cover postage.

Wm. Cook & Sons, Box 70, Scotland Plains, New Jersey.

### PIGEONS.

**MUST SELL** 75 pair fine young breeding Homers, Mated and banded, doing good work.

O. G. Favor, Brocton, Mass.

### PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

**BARRED** Rocks. America's best. Ideal birds, heavy layers. D. D. Maxwell, Woodbury Hills, N. J.

**BARRED P. Rocks** and White Wyandottes. A grand lot of yearlings and young stock for sale at moderate prices.

Crystal Poultry Farm, R. F. D., Bridgeville, N. J.

**BATES'** Excelsior White P. Rocks, 50 choice yearlings, \$1 each. S. A. Bates, Westboro, Mass.

## RHODE ISLAND REDS.

**SHOVE'S** Rhode Island Reds and Houdans give satisfaction. Write for wants.

Daniel P. Shove, Fall River, Mass.

**DEWOLF FARM**, Papagoesquaw, Bristol, R. I. Standard bred stock. Circular free.

**RHODE ISLAND REDS**—Clark Farm, Concord, Mass. Rose and Single Comb Reds. All our breeding stock for sale. Write your wants, and get our prices.

## TURKEYS.

**FOR SALE**—fine marked Mammoth Bronze turkeys; toms weighing up to 40 pounds, and hens 25 pounds. Write for prices.

Daniel Carpenter, Box 188, Turner, New York.

## WANTED.

**POULTRY MAN** wanted to chicken and duck plant near New York city; 30 Cyphers machines in use; must be thoroughly competent, and have first class reference. Address stating fully where employed last five years, age, and wages expected.

Curtis, 189 Leade St., New York city.

**WANT TO RENT** a modern chicken pen 1 1/2 plant, near New York or Boston market. Give good description and lowest terms. Address J. P. K., 313 Garfield Boulevard, Chicago, Ills.

**WANTED**, position as manager, by practical poultryman, married, no family, temperate, honest and industrious, references. Address D. B., 1108 Westchester Ave., N. Y. city, N. Y.

**WANTED**, Cyphers or Model Incubators, large sizes preferred. Must be in good condition. Address Horse Chestnut P. Farm, So. Westport, Mass.

**POULTRYMAN**, American and married, desires a position as manager or assistant manager on a poultry farm. Address O. K., care Farm-Poultry.

**PULLETS WANTED**, any number, any variety. Hollis, Park & Pollard Co., Canal St., Boston.

## WYANDOTTES.

**SILVER** Laced Wyandottes. Some fine stock, both male and female for sale. Same grade that I won the ribbons with at Boston and New York last winter; prices low, quality considered. Send for circular.

H. F. Chase, Box 710, Andover, Mass.

**CHAMPION** strain Silver Wyandottes. We won 14 out of a possible 15 firsts at Boston in our last three exhibits. Stock for sale, and eggs for hatching at \$3 per 15; poor hatches duplicated at half price.

J. C. Jodrey, Box 4, Danvers, Mass.

**WHITE** Wyandottes. A few good cockerels left; also orders looked new for eggs. Barnes & Woodbury, Box 157, Wrentham, Mass.

**COLUMBIAN** WYANDOTTES. First prize pen at Boston, 1904. Eggs \$2. Stock for sale. R. C. Richardson, R. F. D. 2, Lowell, Mass.

**WHITE** WYANDOTTES, snowdrift strain; 25 extra choice birds right out of our breeding yards. Pen of four females and a male, \$10. This is one-half of their value, but we must have the room for young stock. Picturesque Poultry Farm, Box 37, Trenton Junction, N. J.

**100** W. Wyandotte yearling hens, for sale at \$1 each. They are fine blocky stock, and strain of fine layers. Fine cock birds \$2 and \$3 each. C. A. Stevens & Co., Wilton, N. Y.

**WHITE WYANDOTTES, SILVER MED-**AL winners, old and young for sale. Good bargains. Prize winners or egg layers. Write me, D. Lincoln Orr, Box 2, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

**50** W. Wyand. yearling hens, \$1.25 each; 50 W. Wyand. egs, \$1 to \$2 each—Dutton strain. L. B. Foust, Bayonne, N. J.

**BUFF WYANDOTTES**. Good yearling cock, \$6; fine cock, \$12; hens, \$2. \$3, \$4. Cockerels and pullets after October 1st. Dr. N. W. Sanborn, Box 36, Bellingham, Mass.

**WHITE WYANDOTTE** cockerels, Dutton strain direct, one to two dollars each. Write C. M. Cudworth, Medford, Mass.

**GOLDEN**, Buff and White Wyandotte hens from the same pens that produced my Boston winners last season. Will make a liberal discount if taken soon. Loren H. Brown, Lunenburg, Mass.

## NOURSE'S WHITE PLYM. ROCKS

First prize winners for eleven years at the world's greatest shows. Great layers; brown eggs. Circular free.

PLEASANT VIEW FARM, Box A, Barre, Mass.

## CHICKS THAT LIVE

get strong and healthy—gain steadily in weight, are chicks hatched in Reliable Incubators.

**The Reliable** provides automatically a constant current of odorless, warm air at a uniform temperature—chicks pip, hatch and thrive under its nature-like conditions. Send 10 cents and get our 20th annual catalog—full of poultry information. Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Box A-169, Quincy, Ill.

## BARRED ROCKS

Some choice tested breeding stock now ready. The kind that will breed strong, vigorous prize winning birds. Prices right. Eggs for hatching.

J. W. RANDALL, Canobie Lake, N. H. Irish Terriers from pedigreed stock for sale.

## RHODE ISLAND REDS

Greatest layers on earth. Hardy. Profile, Farm-bred Birds from the original Trip-Macomber stock for sale at moderate prices.

**WALTER SHERMAN**, View Farms, Newport, R. I. He also sells Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes and Leghorns, White and Barred Rocks. "Eggs to Hatch" from all above kinds, at 8c each.



**Save Half Your Fuel**

BY USING THE  
**ROCHESTER RADIATOR**

Fits any Stove or Furnace.  
Write for booklet on heating houses.

Rochester Radiator Co.  
17 Furnace St., Rochester, N. Y.

**Price from \$2.00 to \$12.00.**  
For hard or soft coal, wood or gas.

## First Lessons in Poultry Keeping.

[Continued from page 384].

poultry house to lay, no matter how many or how attractive nests are provided for them elsewhere. It is very difficult to break hens of that habit. In many of them it is hereditary, and the best thing to do is to either put a box—a common soap box is good—on the floor in the corner, and let them use it for a nest, or by fastening a nest to the wall a few inches from the floor try to induce them to lay in it. After they begin to lay in this nest it may be raised gradually from the floor until it is at the usual height. Some hens, however, will make their nest on the floor as near the corner as they can, no matter what arrangements are made to tempt them to do otherwise, and all that can be done with them is to put a low box in the corner so that the eggs will not be rolled out or covered up.

For several years I have been using nests reproductions of photographs of which are shown herewith. These are my own design, and as far as I know none like them are in use except such as were made from them. I like them better than anything I have used, and poultrymen who see them seem to take to them. The object was to make nest boxes that were as near skeletons as possible, easy to keep clean, and easy to knock apart for thorough cleaning if that seemed necessary, and put together again. In use in my houses these nests have seemed to have some desirable effects, some good points which I had not anticipated, chief of which is that with them the hens seem to have no favorites, but go to one as readily as to another. When a hen gets up on the front rail and finds one nest occupied and the next vacant she almost always steps promptly into the empty nest. Just why she should do this I cannot say, unless it is because the divisions between the nests being so low in front, as long as she remains perched on the edge of the nest the empty nest is right before her eye.

The nests in most of my houses are on the side wall, or cross partition near the front where they get the full light, yet I have not found the hens more disposed to go to the corners of the house to lay than when I tried to humor them by giving them secluded nests, and I have had very little egg eating in them. I find eggs broken, but not touched many times oftener than I find evidences of broken eggs having been eaten.

It would be premature to consider any general principle or fact as proved by my observations on these nests, but I am inclined to think that in trying to devise an easy nest to clean I inadvertently stumbled on a point which is of some use, i. e., that the nest on the floor, entered from the floor, and the nest with running board in front to accommodate the hens, are the great encouragers of egg eating, because in such nests the hens have better opportunities to spy out the condition of things in the nest, and also the waiting hens have a better vantage ground from which to quarrel with the hens in the nest than in nests like these, or boxes nailed to the wall. The hen in this nest has all the advantage of position.

My nest boxes are made with the bottom a little narrower than the ends, and the strips next it on front and back are placed about half an inch from the bottom edge of the end and division pieces. This leaves a space too narrow for an egg to go through, yet wide enough to drop through any nest material or dirt that cannot be easily lifted out with the hand. There are in these nests no corners formed by three sides, no places for dirt to mass and collect. The nests can be cleaned inside without removing them, or detaching any part of them.

## Receptacles for Grit, Shell, etc.

Where supplies of all these accessories are kept constantly before the fowls, the best way to do is to have self-feeding hoppers with as many compartments as there are articles used. Usually there are three—grit, shell, and charcoal. I use only shell, and for it have small boxes nailed to the wall near the door in each house, just high enough from the floor to let the fowls get at the contents easily. If I had more fowls or used more of these accessories I would use hoppers for them, but we have old butter boxes more than enough for the purpose, so what's the use of buying or making hoppers?

As to the use of these articles: Shell is generally agreed to be indispensable. Grit and charcoal are so considered by the majority of poultrymen, but I am free to say that in my own yards I have never found any advantage in the use of charcoal. I used a good deal years ago, quit because I could see no benefit from it, and have never been able to see that my fowls suffered for want of it. Advocates of charcoal with whom I have discussed this will insist that the fowls would be better for it, but that is begging the question.

Grit I used with shell until a few years ago, and quit it because I found that when constantly and liberally supplied with shell the fowls hardly touched the grit.

I would not conclude from my experience that no fowls needed grit and charcoal, but it seems very plain to me that mine do not. Fowls managed differently might, and of course mine might get in condition that would require them. So while personally I discard the two articles mentioned, as I leave out some of the tasks of poultry keeping that are generally done on the "better be sure than sorry" principle, I don't advise anyone else to do so. I merely say that these things do not seem to be always essential, and that if a man can have confidence enough in his own judgment to determine when they are needed, it is not necessary for him to constantly supply articles or regularly perform tasks merely to be sure that he does not err through omission or neglect. Each one can easily determine for himself how much grit or charcoal his fowls will take, and to what extent they seem benefited by them, or to suffer from lack of them.

## Dust Baths.

In a house with an earth floor, no special dust bath is needed. Clear away the litter occasionally from a space near the door or window, where the sunlight falls on the floor, see that the earth here is loose, and the fowls will prefer such a place to the old fashioned dust bath. This for winter. For other seasons you need do no more than fork up a little spot here and there in the yards.

Where the houses have not earth floors dust baths must be provided. They may be made by putting a board diagonally across a corner and partly filling the enclosed triangular space with dry earth; or the enclosed space may be square or rectangular in form, two boards joining at an angle which projects into the floor being required to make the two sides of this dust box, or a box with sides and bottom may be used and shifted about as desired.

Failing a supply of dry earth, coal ashes may be used, but their effect on the skin and plumage of the fowls is bad. They take away the oil in them, leaving feathers rough and brittle, and the skin dry, and leave the feet and shanks in a condition in which they are especially susceptible to the attacks of the scale insect.

To add to the effectiveness of the dust bath in ridding the fowls of lice, lime, sulphur, etc., are sometimes mixed with it, and doubtless give it additional virtue, though the dry earth alone is sufficient provided hens have opportunity to use it freely.

## NEWS NOTES.

Look up the "ad." of the Allentown, Pa., fair, in this issue. The dates of this fair are Sept. 19-22. Liberal cash prizes are given for poultry, also many special ribbons. Annual attendance at this fair is given at over 200,000. A good place to exhibit.

The little book on killing and dressing poultry, mentioned some months ago in a reply to a question, is now advertised in this paper. Mr. Stapler, the publisher, reports

that the mere mention of his book brought him a large number of inquiries from which he made many sales. He is offering the book for a short time at a special price.

## Suburban Poultry Club.

The Suburban Poultry Club will hold an outdoor meeting with J. H. Robinson, 197 High St., Reading, Saturday, Sept. 9, at 2.30 P. M., or if that day is unfavorable, on the first fair Saturday following, at the same hour. Everyone invited. Lowell cars pass the house.

C. I. NESMITH, Sec'y.

**Resists Rain**

**Roof Leak?**  
Throw shingles away.  
Keep poultry houses and all farm buildings dry with

**Rex Flintkote ROOFING**

No leaks in rain or snow. Any careful farm hand can lay it. Outfit in every roll. It also resists fire, heat, cold, and will wear indefinitely.

**Samples Sent Free**  
with Complete Roofing Book.  
Send postal for it. When buying "Look for the Boy" on every roll.

J. A. & W. Bird & Co.  
53 India St., Boston

FOR SALE  
Pollard Poultry Farm

For years widely known and successful poultry farm. Price for farm and equipments, \$4200.00. Easy terms. Stock will be sold separately.

APPLY TO

**HOLLIS, PARK & POLLARD CO.,**  
46 CANAL STREET, BOSTON.



## New Incubator Thermometer.

Lies flat on top of the eggs. Correct reading at that level. Can be read without opening the incubator. Price, 50cts.

RALPH R. ROOT,  
31 Michigan St., Cleveland, Ohio.

GRITLESS  
POULTRY FEED

**JOBGING PRICES, F.O.B. St. Louis**  
IF BOUGHT THROUGH AGENTS FREIGHT AND PROFIT WILL BE ADDED.

|                                     |              |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Premium Scratch Feed (no grit)..... | per 100 lbs. | \$1.25 |
| Premium Hen Feed (no g. H).....     | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Laying Feed (no grit).....  | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Chick Feed (no grit).....   | per 100 lbs. | 1.35   |
| Premium Forcing Feed.....           | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium A.alfa Mash.....            | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Plain Mash.....             | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Beef Mash.....              | per 100 lbs. | 1.50   |
| Premium Pea Meal.....               | per 100 lbs. | 1.50   |
| Premium Alfalfa Meal.....           | per 100 lbs. | 1.15   |
| Premium Cracked Corn.....           | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Wheat Bran.....             | per 100 lbs. | .80    |
| Premium Cow Feed.....               | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Horse Feed.....             | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium Wheat Middlings.....        | per 100 lbs. | 1.25   |
| Premium White Kafir Corn.....       | per 100 lbs. | 1.15   |
| Premium Millet Seed.....            | per 100 lbs. | 1.50   |
| Premium Chicken Wheat.....          | per bushel.  | .25    |

**W. F. CHAMBERLAIN,**  
314-316 N. Commercial Street,  
Cash with Order. ST. LOUIS, MO.

## Poultry Supplies

Everything from Chick Manna and scratch foods to Cyphers Incubators and Brooders. Our free Illustrated Poultry Supply Book tells about them and explains how your chickens can make more money for you.

**JOHNSON & STOKES Dept I**  
217-219 Market Street, Philadelphia

To say, when writing Advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

# MARKET REVIEW.

## BOSTON.

[From Boston Produce Market Report, August 21, 1905.]

### Eggs.

Receipts today, 7,884 cases; same time last year, 4,012 cases; receipts 6 days, 33,934; same time last year, 25,367 cases.

Receipts continue liberal, but choice fresh stock is selling well and the market for such goods has a firm tone. Fancy Michigan are firm at 21c., and best northwestern are selling well at 20c., with good to choice western in steady demand at 18c. to 19c. the outside for best marks from Ind., Ill., etc. There are still plenty of fair to good western at 16c. to 17c. Ditties range from 12c. to 15c. as to quality and condition.

### Quotations at Mark.

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Fancy henery.....                        | 27. @.  |
| Me., Vt., and N. H. extras.....          | 23. @.  |
| Me., Vt., and N. H., common to good..... | 18. @21 |
| York state.....                          | 21. @23 |
| Michigan fancy.....                      | 21. @.  |
| Northwestern, best marks.....            | 20. @.  |
| Ind., Ill., and N. Ohio, best marks..... | 19. @.  |
| Other choice western.....                | 18. @.  |
| Western, fair to good.....               | 16. @17 |
| Western ditties.....                     | 12. @15 |

### Dressed Poultry.

Receipts today, 933 packages; same time last year, 528 packages; receipts 6 days, 2,848 packages; same time last year, 2,663 packages.

The market cleaned up fairly on Saturday, and today's arrivals were generally late in delivery. Choice western fowls have been in moderate demand this forenoon at 13c. to 14c. Western broilers steady at 15c. for choice marks. Old cocks selling fairly.

Choice eastern fowls are having a steady sale at 15c. Nearby broilers in good supply, and choice lots selling fairly at 17c. to 18c. Green ducks keep well sold up at full prices.

### Fresh Killed Northern and Eastern—

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Fowls, choice.....         | 15. @.   |
| Fowls, common to good..... | 13. @14  |
| Green ducks, ½ lb.....     | 18. @18½ |

### Nearby Broilers—

|                                        |                  |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| Choice 3½ to 4 lbs. to pair, ½ lb..... | 17. @18          |
| Fair to good light weights ½ lb.....   | 15. @16          |
| Pigeons, choice, ½ doz.....            | \$1 50. @ \$1 75 |
| Pigeons, common to good.....           | 1 00. @ 1 25     |
| Squabs, ½ doz.....                     | 2 00. @ 2 50     |

### Western Ice Packed—

|                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Turkeys, common to good ½ lb.....        | 18. @19  |
| Fowls, choice western ½ lb.....          | 13. @13½ |
| Fowls, choice southwestern.....          | 12. @13  |
| Fowls, common to good.....               | 12. @12½ |
| Broilers, 3 to 4 lbs. to pair, ½ lb..... | 15. @.   |
| Broilers, light weight, ½ lb.....        | 13. @14  |
| Old cocks, ½ lb.....                     | ..@10½   |

### Live Poultry.

Receipts moderate, and choice fowls steady at 13c., with some small sales at 13c. Choice chickens selling fairly at 14c. to 15c. Choice Pekin ducks in good demand.

|                                             |         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| Fowls, ½ lb.....                            | 13. @.  |
| Roosters, ½ lb.....                         | 8. @.   |
| Spring chickens, 2 lbs. and over, ½ lb..... | 14. @15 |
| Ducks, Pekin ½ lb.....                      | 14. @15 |

## NEW YORK.

[From The Producers' Price Current, August 21, 1905.]

### Eggs.

Receipts today, 4,460 cases; last six days, 56,791; previous six days, 47,217. The advance established at the close of last week was firmly maintained. Demand for fine fresh gathered eggs was very fair, and most receivers reported no difficulty in placing all that came in. Medium grades are not selling quite so free as they did at a lower price, and yet even these are clearing out fairly. There has, however, been a widening of values of late, the high qualities pulling farther away from other grades. Receipts for the day were moderate, but it is expected that the late advance here will draw more goods this way. Further sales of refrigerator eggs at 18c. to 20c. Ditties continue scarce and wanted, with occasional sales above quotations.

### N. Y. Mercantile Exchange Official Quotations.

|                                                    |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Fresh gathered, extras, ½ doz.....                 | ..@25  |
| Nearby fresh gathered, firsts to extra firsts..... | ..@24  |
| Nearby fresh gathered extra firsts.....            | ..@23  |
| Western fresh gathered firsts.....                 | ..@21  |
| Western fresh gathered seconds.....                | ..@19  |
| Western fresh gathered thirds.....                 | ..@16  |
| Kentucky and Tenn. fresh gathered thirds.....      | ..@16½ |
| Western and southern inferior.....                 | ..@10  |
| Western ditties No. 1.....                         | ..@16  |
| Western ditties No. 2.....                         | ..@13  |
| Checked eggs.....                                  | ..@11  |

### Dressed Poultry.

Receipts today, 689 pkgs.; last six days, 6,872; previous six days, 7,593. Supplies of western show up fairly large today of both fowls and chickens, and invoices of chickens are liberal, though advices of fowls on the way not considered excessive. General demand is moderate, and with some anxiety to urge sales prices are fully 1c. lower on average grades of both fowls and chickens. Selected dry picked broilers in moderate proportion in receipts, and if selected out would bring a premium for freezing purposes. Old roosters weaker in sympathy with fowls. Western spring ducks irregular. Nearby poultry and squabs nominally unchanged.

### Fresh Killed—Ice

|                                                           |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Turkeys, spring, dry picked, 3 @ 3½ lbs. each.....        | 30. @35       |
| Turkeys, spring, dry picked, 4 lbs. and over.....         | 15. @25       |
| Turkeys, old, western, average best.....                  | 17. @.        |
| Turkeys, old, western, mixed, fair to good.....           | 15. @16       |
| Turkeys, old, western, poor ½ lb.....                     | 13. @14       |
| Spring chickens, Phila., choice to fancy.....             | 18. @20       |
| Spring chickens, Penna., choice to fancy.....             | 14. @15½      |
| Spring chickens, Penna., fair to good.....                | 13. @14       |
| Spring chickens, western dry picked, choice to fancy..... | 14. @14½      |
| Spring chickens, western, dry picked, fair to good.....   | 12. @13½      |
| Spring chickens, western scalded, choice to fancy.....    | 13. @13½      |
| Spring chickens, western, fair to good.....               | 12. @12½      |
| Spring chickens, southern, scalded, ½ lb.....             | 11. @12       |
| Fowls, northern Ind., Ill., and Iowa dry picked.....      | ..@12½        |
| Fowls, southern Ind. and Ill., dry picked.....            | ..@12         |
| Fowls, other southwestern and southern, dry picked.....   | ..@12         |
| Fowls, western, scalded, medium size.....                 | ..@12         |
| Fowls, southern and southwestern, scalded.....            | ..@11½        |
| Fowls, poor to fair, ½ lb.....                            | 10. @11       |
| Old cocks, ½ lb.....                                      | 8. @8½        |
| Ducks, spring, L. I. and eastern, ½ lb.....               | ..@17         |
| Ducks, spring, Pa. and Va., ½ lb.....                     | ..@16         |
| Ducks, spring, western, ½ lb.....                         | ..@10         |
| Squabs, white, prime, large ½ doz.....                    | \$2 50 @      |
| Squabs, mixed, ½ doz.....                                 | 2 00 @ \$2 15 |
| Squabs, dark, ½ doz.....                                  | 1 50 @ 1 62   |

### Live Poultry.

There were no fresh receipts of carload lots today, and only a few scattering coops by express. Supplies for the week are decidedly lighter, only 11 carloads reported in sight, though 10 cars in Chicago liable to come here. Prices are decidedly higher on all grades of weighing stock. Ducks and geese unchanged.

|                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Spring chickens, western, ½ lb.....                   | ..@ 15           |
| Spring chickens, southern and southwestern, ½ lb..... | ..@ 14½          |
| Fowls, western, ½ lb.....                             | ..@ 13½          |
| Roosters, western, old, ½ lb.....                     | ..@ 9            |
| Turkeys, old, ½ lb.....                               | ..@ 13           |
| Ducks, western, average, ½ pair.....                  | 70. @ 80         |
| Ducks, southern, average, ½ pair.....                 | ..@ 50           |
| Ducks, spring, ½ pair.....                            | ..@ 40           |
| Geese, western, average, ½ pair.....                  | \$1 00. @ \$1 25 |
| Geese, southern, average, ½ pair.....                 | ..@ 1 00         |
| Pigeons, ½ pair.....                                  | ..@ 20           |

## PHILADELPHIA.

[From official market report of the Philadelphia Produce Exchange, August 22, 1905.]

**Eggs.**—Receipts today, 3,363 crates. Receipts of fresh eggs are light, and the market is firm, with a good demand. Offerings of choice stock are not equal to requirements, and this description sells promptly at full prices. Receipts are mostly more or less heat damaged, but there is a fair demand for this class of stock at the lower range of quotations, and supplies are well cleaned up. Owing to the inadequate supply of desirable fresh eggs dealers are drawing quite freely on reserves in cold storage in order to satisfy current trade wants.

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Pa. and nearby, firsts, at mark..... | ..@21 |
| Pa. and nearby, seconds at mark..... | ..@17 |
| Western, extra, at mark.....         | ..@22 |
| Western, firsts, at mark.....        | ..@21 |
| Western, seconds at mark.....        | ..@16 |
| Southwestern, firsts, at mark.....   | ..@17 |
| Southern, firsts, at mark.....       | ..@16 |

**Dressed Poultry.**—There is a fair demand for desirable lots of both fowls and chickens, and the market is steady, under moderate supplies.

### Fresh Killed Poultry.

|                                            |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fowls, choice.....                         | ..@13½          |
| Fowls, fair to good.....                   | ..@12½          |
| Old roosters.....                          | ..@ 9½          |
| Young chickens, nearby, choice.....        | ..@17           |
| Young chickens, fair to good.....          | ..@14           |
| Young chickens, western, choice.....       | ..@16           |
| Young chickens, western, fair to good..... | ..@14           |
| Squabs, white, ½ dozen.....                | \$2 00 @ \$2 25 |
| Squabs, dark, ½ dozen.....                 | 1 25 @ 1 50     |

**Live Poultry.**—The market is quiet, and supplies of all descriptions are fully equal to requirements. Prices show no important change.

|                                              |        |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Fowls, hens.....                             | ..@12½ |
| Old roosters.....                            | ..@ 9  |
| Spring chickens, as to size and quality..... | ..@14  |
| Ducks.....                                   | ..@11  |
| Pigeons, old, ½ pair.....                    | ..@18  |
| Pigeons, young, ½ pair.....                  | ..@10  |

Eggs this Winter? well, feed Pratts Poultry Food now. It hastens moulting, builds up the hens and puts them in laying condition.

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### Mr. Ely Would Apologize.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—Permit me to apologize to Mr. F. M. Luts for "treading on his toes," as he claims I did in the article published in June 15 F. P.—over my name.

I sincerely beg his pardon. However, I am not sorry I wrote the article, for I do not believe it is the policy of F. P. to waste its worthy pages on a lot of "serappy" poultrymen who cannot use good language or manners towards each other; and since the article appeared I have been well pleased with a communication from the manager. There are some things about the poultry business that are very well established, and there are others that we are weighing in the balance.

If a man does not believe as I do, or I do not agree with him, there is no good in calling each other names, etc. I like to have a man stand by what he believes, and I shall do the same, and we will discuss it.

That is what I take FARM-POULTRY for, and as I have too much to do, with a hotel full of guests, and a farm and several hundred chicks and fowls to look after, to quarrel or fight, even with a pen for a weapon, I shall continue to read the columns, and be ever ready to discuss anything that I am so fortunate as to know anything about.

In time I hope the brother in Ohio will learn that the field of poultry culture contains many little obstructions — thorns, inequalities, and differences of opinion, and that it is a useless waste of energy to get angry if our toe gets hurt or we think it does.

Some people have sore toes, and some are unusually tender and sensitive, and since there will ever be rough places in the path of the poultrymen, and some of them have large feet, and are careless like myself, it would seem the better way to more carefully protect one's feet; and it is also well to learn to control one's temper and not go off like a Roman candle.

Wishing the readers success this season, and being favored with a fair measure myself, I am,  
C. W. ELY.

### How One Woman Keeps the Lice Out of Her Poultry House.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—I see in my last F. P. a man wants to know what will kill lice and fleas. I don't know anything about fleas, but I have no trouble with lice and nits.

I use a spray pump, and this is what I put in it:

Half pint crude carbolic acid.  
Half pint bi-sulfid of carbon.  
Fifteen pints kerosene.

I spray the house thoroughly, and the nest boxes inside and out, and use a stiff brush on the roosts. The droppings board I spray top and bottom. The spraying does the work.

I sprinkle air slaked lime on the floors. I don't have any litter on the floors in summer. I scrape the ground with a hoe, and the droppings are taken out every morning. I sprinkle lime on the board occasionally. J. C. M.

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## Brooder House Experience.

**EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:**—I have been reading "Lessons in Poultry Keeping," and the description of brooder house construction interests me. We have a brooder house built like the second style, three feet and half front, five feet at back, with long and short pitch roof.

We never would build another like it, but we have introduced a few wrinkles that have helped. The house is 50 feet long, 14 feet wide; 30 feet is partitioned off for use as brooder part. The remaining 20 feet is divided into two pens for laying stock. We found that the low front did not give us sunlight enough, so we put four skylights 3 by 3 in roof of 30 foot section. We also found that there was too much heat from sun in daytime, from low long roof, so we put two windows full length in north wall. Our intention has been to have double windows, or shutters for the cold side.

For a number of years we used individual brooders, but we lost so many chicks we came to the conclusion that the difference in the temperature of brooder and the house was too great. The rafters and studs are 2 by 4. We nailed two inch thick strips on the studs, then covered wall with tar paper. We nailed laths across on front to keep the paper on, and filled up, as we did so, the six inch space with sawdust. On the rafters of roof we nailed the paper, and filled the four inch space with sawdust the same way. We left a small place at peak of roof, and then nailed a foot board up with four or five 8 in. holes cut through. We put slides to cover these holes and put a ventilator upon end of house. This paper and laths can be whitewashed, and will last a long time. Were we to do another, would use straw or excelsior for filling. This made our house quite warm. We put in a stove in center, to use on very cold days.

This last winter we found a plan of a sectional brooder that really seemed to be better adapted to our needs, so we went to work and built to extend from three to nine or ten. Mr. F. A. Marshall of Prescott, Wis., furnished us a blue print plan. We got 32 feet of 1 1/2 in. iron pipe cut into 3 feet lengths; had them threaded and put a tee between each section. We then put a 3 inch stub into each tee, and with plaster of paris we put burner collars on these stubs: No. 2 burner and the ordinary chimneys. The box is two feet wide and stands 14 inches high. The galvanized iron, No. 24, is tacked on the top, and the rest of construction is like most other brooders. Each three feet is partitioned off. The top box is 3 feet wide—two feet with hover cloth—one foot with inch mesh wire in front. I made this foot section so that it would form part of shute or run by hinging it. Another hinged place—that drops under and forms a rest, when it is up in place. At the end of pipe we have an elbow and 2 in. stub. We set a five gallon oil can on a shelf and put the faucet into this two inch stub. We then screw down tight the top of can so that no air can leak in, and the oil will feed itself without any more trouble until gone.

Ten gallons will run the whole nine lamps at full flame one week. For a small plant I cannot think of anything that will economize on time equal to it, and the cost cannot be as much as any other; or at least I don't think so. Of course there is some bending of the back and knees, and getting around under the low part of roof is not so easy for your head and temper, but then, Mr. Editor, if we can see our chicks doing well and thriving, and can look into the brooder without fear and trembling we are glad to bend our back and get right down on our hands and knees if called upon.

Just one word more, I like to read your comment on "Mr. Painter's" letter. The more particular emphasis you put upon the way a poultry plant should grow up—very slowly and gradually. This seems to apply to our case, for our growth has been slow enough. For nearly eight years we have been struggling along over the pitfalls that our limited knowledge and less capital have cast in our way. With all the trials and tribulations I don't think I have ever felt really discouraged, or lost faith. I have attributed our

failures and losses to our lack of knowledge as much as anything, and have tried to keep my mind ever open, so that the light of more knowledge, of better knowledge, could find entrance.

We are not wholly out of the woods—to use that expression—but we can see daylight ahead.

W. T. WALLIS.

### A Treatment for Gapes.

**Editor FARM-POULTRY:**—In looking over FARM-POULTRY for August 1st, I see that Mrs. G. N. A. would like directions how to cure gapes. As I have been greatly troubled with gapes this spring and summer, I will give my method of curing the chicks. Heretofore I have always dusted them with lime, but now have a better cure.

As soon as the chicks show the first signs of having gapes, catch each one and thoroughly grease its throat with a mixture of three parts lard and one part turpentine. Melt the lard, then stir in the turpentine. This mixture should be applied every morning and evening until the cure is complete. This remedy was originally taken from Bulletin No. 70 of the Kentucky Experiment Station, Lexington, Ky. This bulletin, which I think is free for the asking, will help anyone who is troubled with gappy chicks. In addition to the remedy, the chicks should be kept out of the wet and away from all drafts.

ARTHUR BEVAN.

**Editor FARM-POULTRY:**—Having read the letter of Mrs. G. N. A., in which she wants to know a sure cure for gapes, would say that the only sure cure (and I have tried not a few) is:—

Take a flight feather from a hen or cock and cut off a quarter inch from the slim end; next strip the feather on both sides of the rib to within a quarter inch of the end which was cut off. Cut the edges of this small piece down to within quarter inch to three-eighths. Take this feather and dip into turpentine and push it gently down the windpipe of the bird (but be sure to get it into the windpipe); then twist it around two or three times, and withdraw quickly, and you have the worms. If there are more remaining, the bird will most likely cough these up; but if it still gapes the next morning, repeat the operation.

If Mrs. A. will hold the chick towards the light and look down the windpipe she can easily see the worms, and by using a little judgment will be able to know how far down to push the feather without injury to the chick. I never lose any with gapes, and cure all mine with this simple operation.

JACOB KUNZ, Jr.

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### R. C. Black Minorca Club.

The International Rose Comb Black Minorca Club has provided special ribbons and will distribute them to be competed for in the leading shows of states where the club has sufficient membership to warrant it. Each of the following states have already the required number of members:—Massachusetts, Indiana, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Michigan, Vermont, Illinois, North Carolina, Kentucky, Montana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington, and Missouri, also the District of Columbia and the provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia, Canada. The indications are that other states will be entitled to ribbons before this is published, therefore I invite correspondence with the secretaries of poultry exhibits throughout the United States and Canada on the subject of ribbons for club competition in their respective shows.

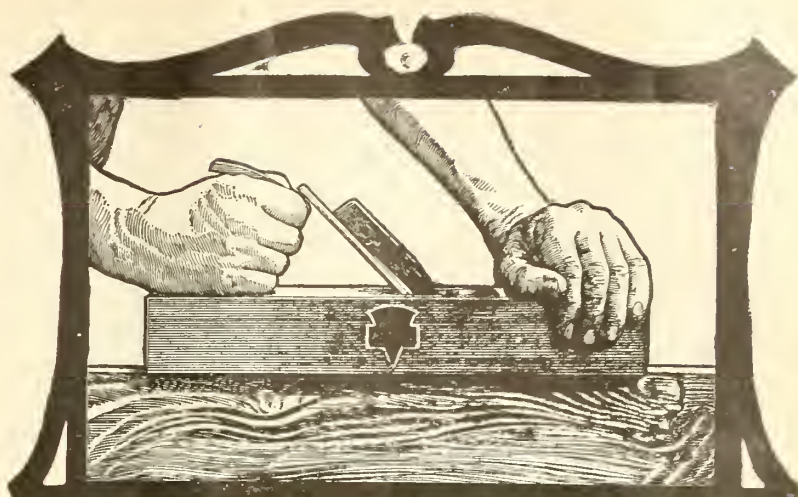
Breeders of R. C. B. Minorcas who are not already members of the International R. C. B. Minorca Club should join it at once, that they may be eligible to compete for all the club's ribbons, cash prizes and cups which will be offered during the coming winter. Dues, \$2 for initiation and one year membership.

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### Money vs. Work and Figures.

What next? One writer advises us to feed cantharides or Spanish fly to our hens to make them lay, while a learned doctor says that the hens need nutritive salts, containing the mineral matter found in the blood, with a food ration with a nutritive ratio of 1 to 4. Still egg farm men get good results with a ration with a ratio of 1 to 5 or 1 to 6 and without condiments. New England poultrymen raise soft meated, yellowed skinned roasting chickens on an almost exclusive corn diet. One class make money from their poultry, the other work and figures. We do not mean to say that more attention should not be paid to matter of diet, but there is a great deal written that is very scientific and very full of bomb. It has been repeatedly shown that a proper division of the food, as regards variety has more to do with the egg yield than its nutritive ratio. That is while it may be beneficial to properly balance the ration and bring it as near a certain standard as possible, there are other factors that are fully as important as the balanced ration.—*Poultry Standard*.

### The Question of Roofing.

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## Expert Advice About "Sore Head."

IN VIEW of the interest taken at present in the disease mentioned in the headline, the views of Dr. S. T. Lea, practicing physician, and one of the best known fanciers in the south, have special interest. We reprint them from the *Southern Fancier*:

"Of all the poultry diseases the fancier has to contend with chicken pox in its malignant form takes the lead. I have been in the poultry business for the past twenty-five years, and it is wonderful to read all the rot and contradictory theories that are written on this subject. Some go so far as to claim it is a local disease caused from mosquito bites; others claim it is dry roup, etc. While the etiology of chicken pox is still shrouded in mystery, there is no doubt it is of microbic origin. There are three distinct stages of the disease, the eruptive, that of desiccation, and that of desquamation. It is sometimes discrete (mild form), when the pustules remain separated from each other, confluent (or severe form), when the pustules unite. This disease is both contagious and infectious. Symptoms, a vesiculo-pustular eruption of the comb, face and wattles, color yellowish white and becoming pustular as they develop, ending in a dry scab; when these scabs are removed they resemble a bunch of spiles set in the flesh and breed freely. In the confluent form the eyes are closed and a yellow fungus growth forms in the corner and under the lids of the eyes. From the pressure of this fungus growth on the eyeball we often find the eyeball ruptured and destroyed. Whenever we have a case of the confluent form we

do as George Washington did: we use the hatchet. As to the treatment, I am a great believer in the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth all the cures. This is my treatment—prevention; hence for five years (although my neighbors' poultry has had the disease) I have not had a single case of chicken pox, or sore head in my flocks. My mode of prevention is this: Thoroughly cleanse everything in the yards, houses, etc., and sprinkle with carbolic water (one teaspoonful of carbolic acid to one gallon of water); give for drinking water two tablespoonfuls of sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts) to one gallon of water; place this water (and no other) before your chicks twice a week during the summer months. Use this treatment, and a case of sore head will be a rare occurrence in your yards.

"If you have not used this treatment and should have the disease in your flocks, a remedy we have used successfully is to bathe the head of the fowl in warm water and apply to all sores a coat of pine tar; don't try to pull off the scabs, let them drop off. Many applications have been suggested, but I would advise that in all confluent cases, that is, where the pustules unite and form a crust over the face and eyes, I use the hatchet. Chicken pox does not attack poultry in the north, but prevails here at the south during the summer and fall months; the earlier in the season it starts the harder it is to stamp out. I have seen very little or none of the severe form in poultry that was over two years old; it appears the younger stock are much more susceptible to this disease."

## Certain Disappointment.

"MY CHICKENS only lay a few weeks in the spring, and then do nothing but eat the rest of the year," complained a woman the other day when comparing notes with a neighbor. "I feed them well, keep their coops clean, give them fresh water and oyster shells, and do everything anyone tells me is good for them, but they are worthless."

When the neighbor inquired what breed the worthless chickens were, it turned out that the poultry yard was inhabited by a mixture of all breeds, and it was impossible to say which predominated. The owner of the mongrel flock had started out with Plymouth Rocks, but almost before she could form an intelligent opinion as to their merits some one praised the Leghorns, and forthwith a few of that breed were added to the checkered gray fowls. Then she heard of the Wyandottes, and added them to her flock, and so on through the list. There were prize winning fowls in the yard, hens obtained from all the neighbors, chickens raised from eggs bought of women who had bragged on their flocks, chickens of all sorts and sizes—everything but what one would expect to find in a successful poultry raiser's lot.

"Why don't you sell all these off, and start new?" inquired the neighbor. "You can't expect to have success with a mongrel flock like this. Any of these breeds might do well in its field, but this combination is worse than nothing. They are an expense rather than a profit to you."

"I know it," answered the discouraged owner, "but I thought by having all kinds I could have eggs and big chickens for market, and everything."

And that is just the trouble on too many farms. The people think that the fowls they raise must combine all the good points, or they are worthless. There are farmers who want the rich milk from the Jersey cow, but forget all about the profit from cream when it comes to selling the small calf from the profitable cow, and that is just the way with poultry raisers. They are looking for hens as large as the Cochins, as persistent in laying as the Leghorns, as healthy as the Rocks, and with all the good points of all the other breeds thrown in. All they get for their pains is certain disappointment, for any child should know that a hen cannot raise

two flocks of chicks and still lay as many eggs as the one that refuses to have the care of a family. Neither can the big lazy fowls suitable for small enclosures be expected to forage for insects and seeds in orchard and meadow, like the smaller ones. If you have a satisfactory breed do not try to cross it with every other under the sun in the hope of finding the perfect general purpose chicken.

If you are dissatisfied with the breed you have, and are certain some other will suit your farm or environment better, make the change, but do it thoroughly. Do not begin by buying a few sittings of eggs and hoping to gradually lead up to the flock of your dreams, but dispose of every chicken you possess, and start new. You will really save time by doing this as well as a lot of annoyance. It is almost impossible for the ordinary poultry raiser to have two or three different flocks on hand at once, for few farms have more than one yard, and it would be folly to build two or three when it is much easier and cheaper to dispose of one flock before buying another. Even if you begin with a few pure breeds it pays in the end to give them as wide a range as possible, and keep them only for a year or so, till you can get the required number, than to shut them in a little pen away from the common fowls and expect both to pay. A few reliable mothers might be saved to rear the flocks from the pure bred eggs, but they should be sold as soon as possible to avoid mixing eggs.

Some people profess not to see why eggs uniform in size and coloring bring better prices than all shapes and sizes, but it is the sort of ignorance that comes from being too obstinate to see. They also object to taking lower prices for their mongrel fowls, on the ground that "one chicken is as good as another," and they will go on to the end of the chapter complaining about bad luck when a little common sense would remedy the defect. Unless you want to be disappointed be content with a good breed, and don't try to cover the entire field. If the fowl suited to your locality gives a fair profit do not be misled by stories of wonderful success in entirely different surroundings by another. In short, get as much information from books, journals and practical raisers as you can, and then profit thereby.

HILDA RICHMOND.

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## Buying Eggs for Hatching—Another View.

**EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:**—Mr. John Lewis, in the July 15th number of F.P., gives a beginner's views on buying eggs for hatching, and his ideas as to what the buyer has a right to expect for his money. I would like to give a little of the other side of the question.

He says a person selling eggs for hatching should make sure his eggs reach the average in fertility. Now this is not possible. Conditions are changing every day. Eggs from the same pen—without change of males—may be 100% fertile today, and next week only 25%.

In 1903 I let a friend have 26 eggs in March. All were fertile; 25 hatched, 23 grew up. The first of April I set 100 eggs from the same pens; 25 were fertile, 20 hatched. There had meantime been no change of either male or females.

This spring I sent to a well known breeder for 50 eggs; 50 were fertile. I asked him if he could send me 50 more from the same pen. He said he could. He sent them. Only 20 were fertile. Conditions had in some way changed.

I was as well satisfied with the last as with the first. The seller was at as much trouble and expense with one lot as with the other. And Mr. Lewis will find, if he should live to sell eggs, that he cannot control the fertility of the eggs he may sell. It takes but very little

to change conditions in a pen of hens. Let there be a week of cold rain, the male have a slight cold, the hens become sluggish, and the eggs infertile. No one can control these things.

I think the time has come when everyone who sells eggs for hatching should make no duplicates for poor hatches—no matter what the cause. I have known men to report a poor hatch, and get the next lot for nothing, when they had more than an average hatch the first time. If there were no duplicating this would be done away with.

Sellers of eggs for hatching have been accused of almost everything. Of scalding them, of piercing holes in the air space, and many other things so eggs would not hatch. Some people seem to think the sellers of eggs for hatching fear competition if the buyer should get a good hatch.

This is not so. It is as aggravating to the seller to have a report of a poor hatch as it is to the buyer to have a poor hatch, and he may test his eggs from every pen, and make no changes in his pens, and still have complaints from buyers.

So I think the best way for all is to take the chances—the seller to sell the same kind of eggs he uses himself, the buyer to pay so much per 100, whether he gets no chicks or 100.

GEORGE E. FOSS.

Hopkinton, N. H.

## Nine Months With a Small Flock.

**EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:**—This is the way I started in poultry keeping:

First I built me a cheap house 12x6, 6 ft. high. Cost me \$2.25, so you may think it was not a very good one.

Then I bought ten pullets and a rooster—cost \$3.39.

That was in the fall of 1904. I got them the last day of September. They started to lay the first of November and laid: Nov., 61; Dec., 106; Jan., 183; Feb., 167; March, 229; April, 249; May, 157; June, 150; July, 124;—total, 1,417 eggs.

This is the record of 10 hens for six months, and 7 hens for three months, the account being for nine months.

March 25th I hatched 73 eggs, got 30 chicks and raised 24—but 6 were crippled, and I killed them.

April 23d I had 34 chicks from 50 eggs, and raised 30 of them.

Those two lots were hatched in incubators. Then I hatched 32 eggs under hens, and got only 11 chicks, and had bad luck with them. That left me with 65 strong chicks.

The food for nine months has cost me \$12.10. The hatching of the chicks cost me \$2.32.

My income for nine months was:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Eggs          | \$21.36 |
| Chickens      | 6.27    |
| Total         | \$27.63 |
| Less expenses | 17.81   |
|               | \$9.82  |

So, as you see, I am \$9.82 ahead, and have stock worth at least \$15, and I figure that I have made on my chickens \$24.82 in nine months.

CHARLES A. BENDER.

## Deal Gently With the Erring Poultry Judge.

IT has long been the fashion to criticize with greater or less severity the work of our poultry judges. We have engaged in this practice ourselves now and then, but shall never do it again—not in the same way. We do not refer in this connection to the dishonest judge. He should be hustled into the street forthwith, and told to seek the way of repentance. The judge we have in mind is the one who does the best he can, all things considered, and who is very liable to be unjustly blamed for not doing better.

Our work during the past two years, first as a member of the revision committee, second as a member of the committee of five on publication of the Standard of Perfection, has taught us one thing, namely, that any man, no matter how experienced or intelligent, who can judge the average poultry show where forty or fifty varieties of standard fowl are on exhibition, and can do a first rate job, is indeed a star performer, a man entitled to respect for his ability, and one whose name should be written in bright letters high up on the chief tablet in poultrydom's hall of fame.

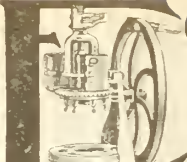
If you, reader, do not agree with us, or fail to comprehend the necessary qualifications of a good all 'round poultry judge, kindly obtain a copy of the latest revised edition of the American Standard of Perfection and patiently read through the three hundred pages just once. By the time you have done this, you will have a pretty fair understanding of what a really competent poultry judge must know. We believe it will be a revelation to you. We have had repeated invitations to judge poultry, but this is one of the few mistakes we have not made. We are more thankful now than ever before that we did not permit egotism or flattery to trick us into a trap of this kind. People who do not know any better seem to get the idea that editors can do most anything. If they would substitute "anybody" for anything we might agree with them, but understanding matters as we do now, nothing would tempt us to consent to placing the awards at even a small sized poultry show, one consisting of three or four hundred birds, including two or three dozen varieties. And our sympathies go out to the man who has the courage to undertake a task of this kind.

We think all of us should be quite lenient, therefore, in our criticism of the work of poultry judges—those who honestly endeavor to do their work well. It is a foregone con-

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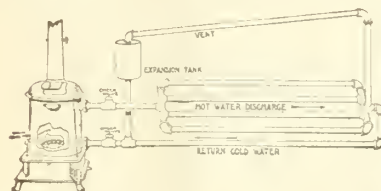
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placed in the drinking water kills the germs and is guaranteed to cure. **We refund your money if it fails.** Your druggist or poultry supply dealer has it—if not, post-paid by us in 50 cent and \$1.00 packages. Our book on poultry diseases FREE.

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is clean, doesn't chip up, is never lost in the litter because it shines at every angle. Hens never tire of it and when given a choice between two they always select Mico Spar Cubical. Costs only a cent a pound, in hundred pound bags at your dealer's. Send for circular No. 14. It tells how to make more money

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clusion that no man living can judge all of the varieties represented at the average poultry exhibition, consisting of five hundred to twenty-five hundred specimens, and do it throughout with genuine expertness. Some will do better than others, and a considerable number will do well, but the man doesn't live, nor is one liable to for some time to come, who can carry in his mind the exact descriptions of the one hundred or more varieties contained in the Standard of Perfection, to an extent that will enable him to do justice by every bird on exhibition.—*Reliable Poultry Journal*.

Editor Curtis' confession of a change of sentiment toward poultry judges who make mistakes suggests several things.

In the first place, suppose we all follow the same policy. The writer believes that little can be found from his pen in criticism of any poultry judge's work, and further, that few could be found who had ever heard him say much in criticism of any judge. Further, there have been mighty few contributions in that line sent us that have not gone straight to the waste basket, because such criticisms are almost invariably written in haste, and are ugly in tone and intemperate in language. Considering his reputation among the brethren, it would be useless to claim any special merit for this forbearance. He has simply felt as a journalist that this was not a legitimate field for the functions of the journalistic critic, while as a breeder sometimes interested in the decisions of judges he long ago came to the conclusion that the only way that it was really worth while to discuss a judge's mistakes was with the judge himself, and if discussion with him was impossible, as it might be because of inability to meet him, or difficulty of getting him to discuss his decisions, to just let the matter go. He has felt since very early in his experience as a poultryman that in decisions on merits of fowls, as in purchasing eggs for hatching, there were ever present elements of uncertainty that left a great deal to chance, and therefore the best way to do was to accept results without finding fault, and trust to better fortune next time to even things up.

So, personally, the writer would not have to change his practice to be in accord with the policy in this matter which Mr. Curtis announces; but suppose that the criticism of errors in judging should be quite generally

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distributed every one gets all that is coming to him, though not always in the way he wants it.

As stated in the above clipping, it is quite impossible for a judge to be accurate always and through all classes. Such perfection is as foreign to human nature as it is to the production of fancy fowls. And the judge has to work too fast to do good thorough work. He also has to work under conditions not favorable to good judgment. He does the best he can, and probably the work of our poultry judges averages as well as it could be done, but his work is superficial, fails to take account of some things the breeder considers most important, and the exhibitor with a more correct appreciation of the real value of the judge's work will not be disposed to be very hard on his mistakes.

A third idea suggested is:—Why such profusion of detail in descriptions? It seems to us desirable that if we are to have every detail minutely described the descriptions should be more than the mere skeletons that the Standard contains, but still the question arises:—Is there any more pleasure or merit or money in breeding to such rigid standards than in leaving a little room for the skill of the breeder and the chances of matings to "come and go?"

Finally there is an inevitable question as to the attitude of the editor of the *R. P. J.* toward judging. The refusal to judge—on the grounds stated—coming from the member of the revision committee who is generally credited with having given more personal attention to the making of this new Standard than anyone else, looks to us like "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

Why should one not be oppressed by any diffidence as to his capacity to be a final arbiter in the making of standards for all breeds be so modest about giving the public samples of his capacity to apply the Standards as they come from his hands?

There is something here just a little bit puzzling. The maker should be the most expert in the application of any device, invention, or method. If he cannot apply his invention or his rule he is not "practical" in respect to it, and there would seem to be impropriety in his making rules for others or recommending his goods to them. If he can apply—if he does understand—he must needs have a better excuse for declining engagements to judge than mere modesty. Let him be too busy—his time too valuable—anything that way. We will accept his excuse. But on the grounds of incapacity though self-confessed, the excuse does not fit the case of a maker of standards for others to breed to and judge by. By all means let Mr. Curtis reconsider the matter, and accept as many judging engagements as his other engagements will permit. More good judges are needed, and he is better qualified to place the awards than at least half of those who are judging all varieties, while he has more than ordinary capacity to make progress and is a stayer—one of the kind of men who would not pack his grip and get out of the town as quickly as possible after finishing his work. Not so Mr. Curtis; he would stay until he had convinced the last exhibitor that his judgment was right or at least entitled to respectful consideration.

The more we dwell on it the more pleasing seems the prospect of a man of the Curtis stamp as a poultry judge. Frankly, we didn't like him as a maker of "Standards." That seemed to us not so much beyond his capacity as out of his line. We may have been all wrong in this. However, the standard making has become ancient history now, and the problem of competent judges will always be with us, and since he cheerfully took up the burdens of the larger task why should not the public insist on his accepting some responsibility in the smaller one?

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